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INSIDE
EIGHT PAGES
FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

Ross fails to move Hebron talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

US peace talks envoy Dennis Ross made no discernible progress yesterday, and made clear he did not expect to conclude protracted negotiations on a Hebron pull-back.

Instead, he hoped to provide US President Bill Clinton with a status report on where the talks now stand. Ross is tentatively scheduled to leave this evening. He met Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat last night to review progress by Israeli and Palestinian security negotiators, who yesterday held their first extensive session in weeks, following the Beit El attack and the subsequent cabinet decision to provide financial incentives to settlers.

The Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, accompanied by US mediators, met for six hours to complete remaining problems in the talks, but the only two things that were clear were negative: Palestinians would not permit hot pursuit or a buffer zone between Israeli and Palestinian sections of the city.

Palestinian preventive security chief Jibril Rajoub said Palestinians would never accept hot pursuit, which was expected, but did not accept the buffer zone either, which was unexpected.

Three weeks ago the buffer zone was presented by Israel as acceptable to the Palestinians. Once acceptance was won, Israel wanted it extended from some 200 to 500 meters. The Palestinian refusal to accept the buffer zone now may reflect a Palestinian principle in conducting talks. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. This is the main guideline of the Palestinian stand," Palestinian cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said yesterday.

One real dispute concerns the kinds of weapons Palestinian police should carry on joint mobile units.

PA sources said yesterday that "We are asking for equivalent weapons, but the Israelis say their soldiers will carry M-16 semi-automatics while the Palestinian police will carry only short guns, like automatic pistols." The PA considers that ridiculous, and indicative of the government's attitude. "Why give the Palestinians the feeling of an inferiority complex?" asked Abdel-Rahman. "You should have confidence in the Palestinian police. Is this the way to build deep understanding?"

Another unresolved issue is the (Continued on Page 2)



US envoy Dennis Ross shakes hands with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai before their meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Firebombs fly in Hebron

Bomb explodes in Alon Shvut

HERB KENON

THREE firebombs were thrown in separate incidents in Hebron yesterday, and a 2 kilogram makeshift bomb went off at a hitchhiking post near Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion. Two Palestinians were injured in one of the firebomb incidents.

Yeshayahu Yehieli, deputy head of the Gush Etzion Regional Council, said the bomb, a timing device connected to a gas canister, went off at about 7:30 a.m., causing a huge explosion. He said it was a "miracle" that none of the three people at the hitchhiking post at the time was hurt in the explosion, which took place just outside the settlement's gate. The explosion caused extensive damage to the hitchhiking post.

Yehieli said the attack was obviously timed for when soldiers were on their way back to their bases following Shabbat leave.

"This is a logical place to put an explosive device, because it is generally filled with soldiers on Sunday mornings," Yehieli said.

IDF troops searched the area for assailants, but made no arrests. Yehieli said that the night before someone had said their suspicion was aroused when they saw a car with Arab license plates stop at the hitchhiking post. That episode had not been investigated, Yehieli said.

In Hebron, three firebombs were thrown in the area near Beit Hadassah yesterday, bringing to four the number of firebombs thrown at Jewish targets in the area within 48 hours. Two of the firebombs were thrown at a Jewish home, and two at IDF outposts.

The IDF spokesman said that in one of the attacks, an IDF outpost, the firebomb caused a ladder to fall, injuring two Palestinians. One suspect was arrested in that attack and then released. The IDF clamped a curfew on the area near Beit Hadassah.

David Wilder, a spokesman for the Hebron settlement, said there has been an increase in "security incidents" in the city recently.

"There is now a great deal of tension in the city," Wilder said. "Hebron is now the number one hot spot. The Defense Ministry and the IDF have to make sure the situation does not get out of control. We have seen in the past that when incidents like these are not controlled, they lead to even worse terror attacks."

Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said the firebombs are a "warning signal" to the prime minister and the government on the "goals of the Arabs," and called on Netanyahu to suspend the negotiations with the Palestinians. "Just as Netanyahu (Continued on Page 2)

Arrangements bill highlights

HIGHLIGHTS of the Economic Arrangements Law accompanying the budget, as approved by the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday:

- In contrast to the Treasury's original proposal, child allowances will not be cut, fees will not be instituted for visits to doctors or hospital clinics, and medicine co-payments will not rise.
- Tax brackets and credits will not be updated for inflation next year, resulting in higher monthly taxes for all but the lowest income brackets. From 1998, tax brackets will be updated only once a year instead of three times a year.
- Senior citizens' discounts for entrance fees to parks, theaters and other places of entertainment will be canceled totally, while the television license fee exemption will remain in effect only for the very poor, and an income test will be instituted for the *arnona* (municipal rates) discount. Senior citizens' discounts for medicine and public transportation will remain unchanged.
- Parents will pay a school health fee of NIS 64 per child for each of their first three children, except in development towns.
- Soldiers' demobilization grants will not be increased by NIS 50 next year, and soldiers will no longer be able to use special demobilization funds for rent subsidies.

Evelyn Gordon

Tax hikes likely after Finance C'ttee vote

EVELYN GORDON and DAVID HARRIS

A CUT-DOWN version of the government's economic arrangements bill passed the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday, but not without the tax hikes that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had promised to avoid.

"I don't think there was a single instance in which the government did not cave in, in contrast to its brave words," said MK Avraham Shohat (Labor), after the marathon nine-and-a-half-hour committee meeting. "What happened here was governmental anarchy, such as only a government with two left feet could produce."

One of the major changes in the bill passed yesterday is that it does not include reductions in first and second child allowances for middle- and upper-income families, as the government had originally planned.

To make up for the NIS 850 million these reductions were to have saved, tax brackets and credits will not be updated for inflation next year. Thus, for instance, the 30% tax bracket will continue to start at NIS 3,280, instead of starting at NIS 3,350 next year, while the floor of the 45% bracket will stay at NIS 8,630 instead of rising to NIS 8,820. Someone grossing NIS 5,000 a month (about the average wage), with a standard 2.25 tax credit points, would pay NIS 18 more each month in taxes.

Those in the lowest tax bracket will actually get a tax cut, since this bracket will be split in two. Instead of paying 15% on the first NIS 3,280 earned, the rate will be

10% up to NIS 1,640 and 20% from NIS 1,640 to NIS 3,280. This means that someone earning NIS 2,500 a month, with 2.25 tax credit points, will pay NIS 32 a month less in taxes.

Still, coalition MKs said the government had not capitulated on Netanyahu's pledge not to raise taxes.

Read my flips
Page 2

"What's important is that we reached a compromise on everything," said Pini Badash (Likud). "I think that's a great achievement for the finance minister."

The government also wanted not to update child allowances, but dropped this idea quickly when the committee objected. It would have brought in some NIS 30m. Failure to update tax brackets and credits, in contrast, is expected to bring in NIS 800-850m.

The proposal approved yesterday includes a long-term gain for the Treasury. From 1998 on, tax brackets will be updated only once a year instead of three times a year. State Revenues Director Tsipi Gal-Yam said this change was justified by the fact that inflation has declined from an average of 18% a year a few years ago to about 10% a year now, making frequent adjustments unnecessary.

A second major change is cancellation of the proposal to institute a NIS 20 fee for visits to doctors or hospital clinics and cancel- (Continued on Page 2)

Brotherly love, hassidic style

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE hassidim of Toldos Aharon number only 600 families, but the election of their new rebbe has all the drama and intrigue of a race for a prime minister.

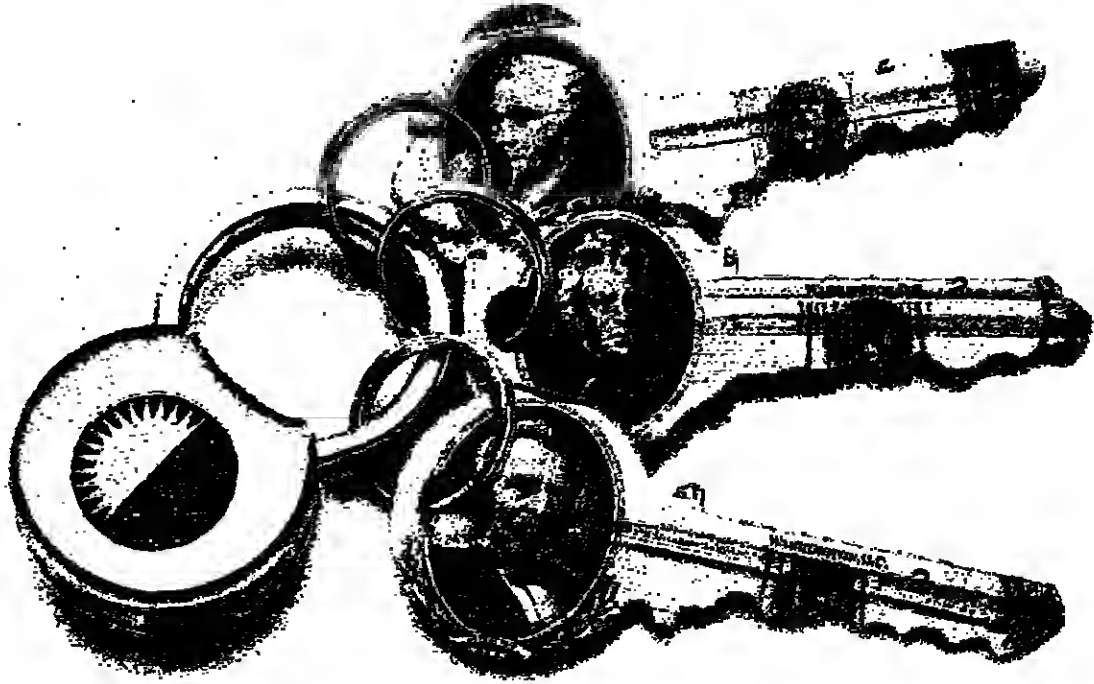
The previous rebbe, Avraham Yitzhak Kahan, died almost two weeks ago at the age of 83. Kahan's will said his successor should be elected after one week of mourning. But things are dragging on longer than that because of the ferocity of the fight between the two candidates, his sons Shmuel Ya'acov and David.

Shmuel Ya'acov is favored because of his birthright as the eldest of the rebbe's sons, while David, the rebbe's youngest son, has a lot of support because he is considered the more stalwart in his opposition to the Zionist state.

In a community in which rejection of Israel is total, this is a serious consideration.

Toldos Aharon hassidim, known among the other haredim as the "zebras" because they wear the striped robes once common in Jerusalem's pietist circles, are so firm in their anti-Israel stance that they refuse to accept child allowances from the National Insurance Institute. For many of the hassidim, Shmuel Ya'acov is considered tainted (Continued on Page 2)

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Israel, Oman to unite in desalination research

AN agreement to establish a regional research center for desalination was signed yesterday in Muscat by Israeli and Omani officials along with ambassadors from the US, Japan, and South Korea the co-founders of the center.

The head of the Israeli trade mission in Oman, Oded Ben-Haim, signed the agreement, and the center's directorate is negotiating to have the European Union join the founding states. Additional Arab ambassadors also attended the event.

The center is the first regional center of its kind in the Middle East to deal with coordinating research on desalination, establishing various experimental desalination facilities in the region, and providing instruction on the process.

It was agreed that the subject of desalination using solar energy in Israel would be given special importance at the center, which has an annual budget of \$7 million.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Yoav

Biran, who headed the Israeli delegation, said the new center would serve the entire region. The center's coordinating council has already started developing plans for short and long-term research.

Foreign Ministry officials noted that the opening of the center, in which Israel is an equal partner, is an important achievement for the peace process.

They said that from a scientific standpoint, the center's establishment will provide an opportunity to advance possible solutions for the region's water problems via research, exchange of information between experts, and the use of cheap techniques to solve water problems. About half of the desalinated water produced in the world, totaling millions of cubic meters, is produced in the Persian Gulf.

Biran held talks in Oman with senior officials, in light of Oman's recent decision to freeze relations with Israel because of the lack of progress in the peace process. (Iim)

Read my flips: Netanyahu falls victim to his promises

IT was a warm summer evening when Benjamin Netanyahu landed on the Dan Caesarea Hotel's meticulously mowed lawn with his recently won prime ministerial helicopter, and - storming cumbrously out straight into the annual convulsion of Israel's economic elite - pompously vowed not to raise taxes.

Back then, the many industrialists, economists, analysts and journalists who packed the auditorium listened skeptically, but tacitly agreed to judge that statement by the action that would follow it.

Now, five months later, the good news is that the verdict can finally be passed; the bad news is that it leaves the prime minister guilty of political fraud and economic deceit.

What transpired yesterday meant that Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor retreated on most fronts, like a confused army caught in a merciless enemy's pincer movement.

Scrambling for cover under heavy fire from the social lobby on the one hand and the Industrialists' Association on the other, Netanyahu and Meridor

COMMENT AMOTZ ASA-EL

renege on their promises to slash children's allowances, to charge a fee for doctors' visits, and to reduce capital-investment aid for from 38 percent to 20% of gross investments (which was changed yesterday to 24%).

And so, back in the throes of its predecessors' socialist legacy, and compelled to somehow find money with which to finance the hefty cost of its new commitments, the government turned to the only flank from which it met no effective fire, namely the middle classes.

Economically, this disappointing capitulation spells out yet another delay in Israel's long overdue Thatcherite revolution, whose three pillars were to be sharply lowered social spending, reduced taxes, and privatized state assets.

Judging by the experience of other over-taxed and unrealistic generous governments - like Germany, Belgium or Sweden - this fiscally derelict government will ultimately get its lesson from

North American and European bond markets, where it has recently begun to raise money.

No one wants to lend money to a derelict borrower, and those who fail to understand this will see their bond prices plummet and their interest rates zoom.

Politically, Netanyahu's and Meridor's tragedy is in their failure to confront the so-called "social lobby," that team of cowards who, though they lacked the guts to face the voter independently, now behave as if they were a mandate to swindle the hard-working wage earner into financing an unaffordable social safety net.

The fact is that most Israelis belong to the middle classes; they have jobs, wages, some property, and enough talent to make prudent use of their income, without bequeathing it to such financial wizards as David Magen or Maxim Levy.

Netanyahu would do well to remember that George Bush, the originator of his "read my lips" sound bite, ultimately lost his job, largely because of his failure to deliver on that promise.



Palestinian police walk in the rain as a tourist bus with 'Peace Land' painted on its side pulls out of Manger Square in Bethlehem yesterday. This will be the second year the Palestinian Authority is in charge of security for the thousands of Christians who will flock to the city for Christmas celebrations.

Likud's silence hints approval of Bar-Illan views on Palestinian state

NEITHER Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor any member of the Likud has publicly disavowed remarks by the premier's senior advisor David Bar-Illan, who indicated support for a demilitarized Palestinian state.

The only public remarks from the premier's office over the last three days have come from Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, who said, "We are in a new situation where everything is open."

In a strong hint of approval, Naveh said the government would fight against the establishment of a "militarized Palestinian state." Foreign reporters, who had prescheduled

DAVID MAKOVSKY

interviews with the premier, have not obtained a denial from Netanyahu. Instead, the premier has sought to skirt the issue. Excerpts of Bar-Illan's statements, in an interview last week with *The Jerusalem Post*, have been brought to the attention of Arab leaders in recent days.

Aryeh Naor, a former cabinet secretary to Menachem Begin, said last night that he views Bar-Illan's comments as part of a wider trend. "There seems to be an ideological revolution in the right," he said, "as they are detaching themselves from the Greater Israel ideology. It all

started during the election campaign when Netanyahu decided he would appear better at someone closer to the center. If Bar-Illan, who is considered to be a true believer in Likud ideology, talks this way, this tells you there is a new spirit of the times."

Labor MK Yossi Beilin said Bar-Illan's comments can be seen as important, adding momentum to Beilin's goal to create a consensus between Likud and Labor MKs on the shape of a final status map. Beilin said he expects the group to reach a final document next month after seven meetings and an estimated 40 hours of discussions.

Aid to settlements will not be spread evenly

THE new package of aid for the territories will not be spread evenly, a source close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

The cabinet approved awarding development area status to all the territories, but the aid will be distributed unevenly. The government has been able to say how much money will be made available, where it will come from and exactly where it will be spent.

The package of aid will in all probability include financial help for education, encouraging investments and certain tax breaks.

"The measures will not be spread evenly throughout the territories," said the source. "A rich bedroom community just over the

Green Line cannot expect to receive the same help as a group of settlers who've chosen to live well within the areas, surrounded by Arab towns."

Netanyahu, together with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Shtronsky have so far not been prepared to give any indications as to how the new regulations will work, preferring to say they will wait until the newly-formed ministerial committee on the subject reports early next year.

When the territories were previously considered as development areas, until 1992, they were split in zones A, B, and C, each progressively further from the Green

DAVID HARRIS

Line, and the help was graded accordingly.

There has been increasing speculation in recent days that the Gabbai Committee's proposals to pump an annual NIS 500 million into "development zones" as a replacement for the reduced capital-investment aid will be funneled at least in part into the territories, thus denying the existing zones of some of the financial assistance.

This suggestion was denied over the weekend by Meridor. Any money that goes into the territories will not come from the budgets of existing development towns, he told *Ha'aretz*.

The idea of grading the help on

offer was welcomed yesterday by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza as "right, fair, and moral."

"Many of the towns along the Green Line are very close to the industrial areas on the Coastal Plain," said the head of the council's foreign desk, Yehiel Leiter. "They do need more incentives than say people in north Tel Aviv, but not as much as those living well in Judea and Samaria and Gaza, say in Eilon Moreh."

On an ideological basis the proposal is also sound, according to Leiter. "We are slowly melting away the Green Line. Those just over the line will be more or less on a par with those just to the west of the line," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorist dies of heart attack

An Ashdod man, 43, had a heart attack and died while driving home from a party celebrating the birth of his daughter. Yitzhak Cohen was driving with his wife near the Ashdod industrial zone, when he suddenly had a sharp chest-pain, swerved into the oncoming lane and drove onto the sidewalk. A medical team arrived and tried to revive him, but after an hour declared him dead.

In another accident, one person died and four were injured when two cars crashed at the Halamish junction in the territories. On the Trans-Samaria Highway, a car and truck collided, and the car's driver suffered serious injuries.

There were 77 road accidents around the country yesterday in which 103 people were injured. (Iim)

Grenade blast kills regional council official
Gabi Metzger, 50, the treasurer of Kibbutz Sde Nehemia and deputy head of the Upper Galilee Regional Council, was killed yesterday in what appear to have been a grenade explosion near the kibbutz garage.

Metzger was riding his hike to the garage when the explosion occurred. Members of the kibbutz heard the blast and went to the scene where they found the man lying on the ground bleeding from shrapnel wounds. Efforts by paramedics to resuscitate him failed. Police are investigating the incident as an apparent murder. (David Rudge)

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Sister: **Elizabeth Lipschutz**

Lebanese children hosted in Metulla

HUNDREDS of Lebanese children from the security zone were hosted at Metulla's Canada Center sports and recreation complex yesterday by youngsters from the town and the Upper Galilee region in what has become a traditional event to jointly celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas and the new year.

Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit welcomed the children from villages in the zone, saying they were ambassadors for the hoped-for peace in the region. (David Rudge)

FIREBOMBS

(Continued from Page 1)
called on the previous government not to negotiate while there is terror; we are demanding the same of him," Arnon said.

In a related development, Jewish leaders in Hebron met last night to draw up a strategy to combat the renovation by Palestinians of abandoned homes in the Casbah and near Beit Romano. Wilder said the Palestinian Authority has allocated between \$12 million and \$18m. to renovate these homes, in an attempt to surround the Jewish compounds and "choke them off."

According to Arnon, the IDF yesterday halted work that Palestinians had begun to renovate a home directly next to Beit Romano. Arnon said the homes being renovated present a clear security danger to the Jewish settlements. "These homes are being built right next to Jewish homes," he said, "with no space at all between them. It is a major security problem."

Wilder said that if these homes were renovated, Palestinians could jump from their windows directly into the Avraham Avim compound.

HIKES

(Continued from Page 1)
latoo of a proposed 25% hike in co-payments for medicines. These changes were supposed to have saved the Treasury NIS 530m. Instead, this sum will be made up by a variety of tax hikes, including a rise in cigarette and gasoline taxes and an increase in the income ceiling on which the national health tax is levied, from four to five times the average wage.

The health fees proved one of the main sticking points in the committee yesterday. On Thursday, MKs thought the Treasury had agreed to cancel the hike in medicine prices entirely, but the proposal it actually brought yesterday morning was to reduce the 25% hike to 12.5%.

After a one-hour battle with MKs, the Treasury finally gave in on this point. Another major sticking point was the maximum size of investment grants. The Treasury had originally wanted the mandatory grant reduced from 34% to 10% of the total investment, but with the Industry Ministry having discretion to give grants of up to 20%. The mandatory grant will now be 24%.

However, the Treasury said this will cost no extra money, since the government will just give fewer grants.

The government also consented to changes in the NIS 64 per-student school health fee, agreeing to exempt development towns entirely and to enable municipalities to make fees up to 20% higher in wealthy neighborhoods and lower in poorer ones. The government did have a few victories, such as passage of its proposal to eliminate all senior citizens' discounts except those for municipal rates (*armona*) and public transportation.

The Treasury also got through a proposal to cancel a NIS 50 increase in soldiers' demobilization grants. Despite the committee's maneuverings, government sources claimed Netanyahu had not backed down on his no-tax-hike pledge. "We could have put up income tax, VAT or employers tax, we've done none of these," said a source close to the government.

The sources said Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel had all agreed on the changes to the government's proposals.

Frankel refused to comment last night on the individual proposals in the budget. But a central bank source said the near NIS 7 billion cuts are the bare minimum in order to put the economy back on track. "It's not just the size of the cut that's important, but also the nature," said the central bank source. Cuts are preferable to raising taxes, the source said.

According to the Treasury, of the NIS 7b. to be saved, NIS 5b. will come in cuts.

All along the Treasury has said the key is to achieve as large a cut as possible, citing a variety of economic indicators, which it said must be radically altered. The balance-of-payments deficit climbed to \$3.9b. in 1995 and has further increased in 1996.

A source close to Netanyahu denied the changes agreed yesterday were a capitulation to Gesher, which had been threatening to leave the government if the poor were negatively affected by the budget. "We have found alternatives, which are good to both sides," the source said.

Meanwhile, one cabinet member conceded there was little political sense in refusing to adhere to the pleas of Gesher and some coalition MKs. "This is not a dictatorship, we live in a democracy," he said. Dozens of senior citizens are expected to demonstrate outside the Knesset tomorrow as MKs prepare to discuss the budget before its second and third readings on December 31.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The official inauguration of the Gila Fromer WIZO Shelter for Battered Women in Jerusalem took place yesterday (Dec. 22, 1996) in the presence of Mr. Eli Yishai, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs; MK Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem; Mrs. Raya Jaglom, Honorary President World WIZO; Mrs. Helena Glaser, Chairperson, World WIZO Israel; Sima Goren, Chairperson, WIZO Israel Department for the Status of Women; Dr. Neer Hovav, Director, Division of Correctional Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Mrs. Dvora Itzk, Director of the Shelter, and members of the World WIZO and Israel WIZO Executives.

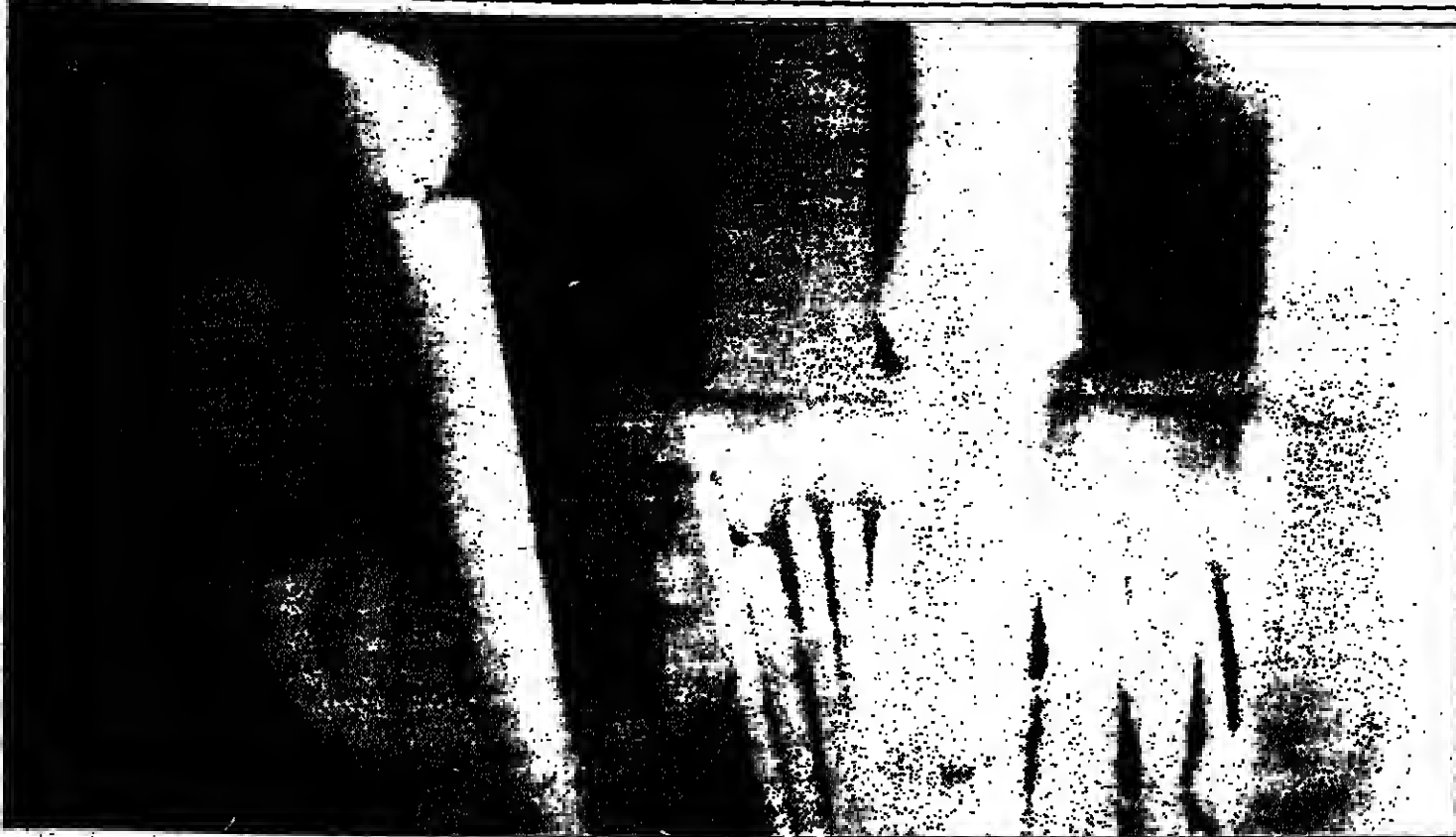
CORRECTION
Sarah Shapiro will speak at the Israel Center on January 26, and not at the Center for Conservative Judaism, as incorrectly stated in Friday's *Jerusalem Post*. (019778)

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Christian Arab pilgrims from Jaffa light candles in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem yesterday. (AP)

Customs grinch holds up Bethlehem's tree

FOR the second year in a row, customs officials have played the part of Scrooge, holding up a Christmas tree sent from abroad for the Bethlehem Municipality. But this year, at least, Santa Claus himself managed to elude the customs authorities.

The tree, a 12-meter-high fir, was donated by Raimo Jarvinen, who planted it 40 years ago as a child in southwestern Finland. It was sent by ship with the help of volunteers.

According to Rony Smolar, a Finnish correspondent who is acting as a spokesman for the project, the tree was stopped by Israeli customs officials, who insisted it had to be examined for insects and parasites.

HAIM SHAPIRO

Smolar said the tree had undergone such an examination before it was shipped from Finland. Last year, a similar tree from Norway was also stopped at customs.

On Friday, the Christian communities department of the Ministry for Religious Affairs and the Jewish National Fund gave out free trees to over 100 Christian institutions.

In the absence of their tree, the Finnish volunteers yesterday took the lights and decorations that had been sent along with the tree and used them to decorate another tree in Manger Square. The official lighting of the tree took place yesterday with Emil Jarjou, one of

the Christian representatives on the Palestinian Executive Council.

Meanwhile, Santa Claus - alias Kari Rantila, a headmaster in a community home in southeastern Finland - made his debut in Manger Square, passing out candy and small gifts donated in Finland. Rantila, who described himself as the "first Santa Claus to come to this part of the world in 2,000 years," said Saint Nicholas may have come from Turkey, but he was sure Santa Claus came from Lapland.

He also admitted that he himself is not from Lapland, but he added that where he is from is "very far north when you're looking from Israel." Rantila said he has visited Israel 22 times, but this was his first visit as Santa Claus.

Jaljulya couple brings home first son after 13 pregnancies

A JALJULYA couple will today take home their first son after 13 pregnancies, nine of which ended with a miscarriage or a stillborn baby.

Doctors at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus performed an urgent cesarean section at the 28th week of pregnancy when signs of trouble appeared.

Thirty-nine-year-old Fahika Sharim and her husband Mahmoud, who live in a village near Rosh Ha'ayin, had two healthy girls soon after they married and later two more. But every time Fahika became pregnant with a male fetus, it was lost, causing

JUDY SIEGEL

them much sorrow. Doctors performed numerous tests and couldn't find the reason for the miscarriages and stillbirths.

This time, during her 14th pregnancy, doctors at the Rabin Medical Center-Hasharon Campus in Petah Tikva began noticing fewer movements by the male fetus at the 26th week. Since this occurred at around the same stage in all previous failed pregnancies, Prof. Zion Ben-Raphael decided to transfer the mother to the high-risk pregnancy unit run by Dr. Moshe

Hod on the Beilinson Campus.

Over a period of two weeks, an interdisciplinary group of experts recommended to the parents an early delivery, even though this posed risks. The parents agreed, and at the end of October, a premature baby boy, weighing 1.28 kilos, was delivered. He was born with under-developed lungs and was attached to a respirator in the nearby Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel.

However, the baby gradually grew stronger, and is to be discharged home from SCMCJ today, weighing 2.2 kilos.

Yishai: Battered women will get more aid

GREER FAY CASHMAN

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai has pledged that his ministry will give more aid to battered women, initially by increasing its share in the running costs of most of the country's 11 shelters for battered women from 60% to 75%.

At the official opening in Jerusalem yesterday of WIZO's Gina Fromer Shelter for Battered Women, Yishai announced that in 1997, his ministry will make alleviating domestic violence a priority. In addition to contributing to the maintenance of the shelters, it will also build its own, as well as hostels for wife-beating husbands.

"There is no reason for women to be doubly punished," he declared, explaining that unless a battered woman obtains a court order to bar her husband from the house, she is the one who has to leave.

But a woman who gets such an order is at far greater risk of being abused again, because her husband feels humiliated when he has to ask friends to take him in. If he

can check into a rehabilitation hostel where he can receive psychological and social guidance, it may help to resolve the problem, said Yishai. What concerns him most was the children of violent households who live in a constant state of trauma. "These children are in crisis," he said.

Yishai said that he and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert had commissioned a survey on the number of battered and/or sexually abused women and children, the results of which will determine a plan of action. The fact that there is more openness about violence within the family, does not necessarily mean that it is increasing, he reasoned, only that it is being more highly publicized.

Noting that this was one of only two shelters in the capital for battered women, Olmert said that the two together are inadequate considering the need.

Honorary World WIZO president Raya Jaglom, who initiated

the new shelter and its 12-year-old predecessor in Ashdod, received over a million dollars from her former school friend Gina Fromer of New York to get them started.

What moved her most yesterday, she said, was the sight of Geula, a mother of four, who together with her children had lived at the facility for six months prior to moving to her present home in Rehovot. Geula, who had come for the official opening, was embraced like a long lost relative by staff and temporary residents. The shelter, she said, had given her "self-confidence, strength and happiness."

Devorah Itzik, who has been managing the shelter during its year-long running-in period, said that so far 45 families have been given a haven, and some have stayed for as long as 10 months. "The most important work we do here is rehabilitation," she said. "We enable women to discover themselves after years of terror."

Private eye petitions High Court

PRIVATE investigator Micha Rotem, currently on trial in the media wiretapping case, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kabalant, State Attorney Edna Arbel and the National Investigations' Dep. Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman, asking that testimony given against him by a former Bezek technician be ruled inadmissible, and that a complaint he filed with police be properly investigated.

In his petition Rotem accuses Mizaki of giving false testimony in return for money from *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi and others, therefore making it inadmissible.

Rotem also asked the court to see to it that a complaint he filed with police over the deal be seriously investigated. *Kaine Marcus*

Surgeons remove massive 42 kg. growth from woman's stomach

JUDY SIEGEL

A 70-YEAR-OLD Russian immigrant has parted from a giant, 42-kilo growth in her belly.

The growth was removed at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. The woman had arrived recently at the Kupat Holim Clalit hospital for repair of a hernia, but her main problem was a gargantuan deposit of fat that reached her ankles when she stood up. She had such difficulty walking that she rarely left her home and couldn't dress by herself.

Most of the time she remained in bed or in a wheelchair. Prof. Moshe Ellenberg headed a surgical team that removed the growth. Several weeks of preparations were needed, including the building of a special device using the type of strings attached

to a parachute and metal rings used on mountain-climbing equipment - to hold it up.

After the growth was removed, two strapping hospital workers took it to be weighed in - at 42 kilos. The hospital's pathological institute is now trying to find the source of the tumor, but apparently it is the result of complications in the lymphatic system in the belly due to infection.

A day after surgery, the woman was able to stand up, for the first time in years. "I feel as if I were dreaming, as if I were reborn and were 17 again," she said. "Now I can start again after being at home for so long. I have no words to thank the surgeons and other doctors who treated me so well."

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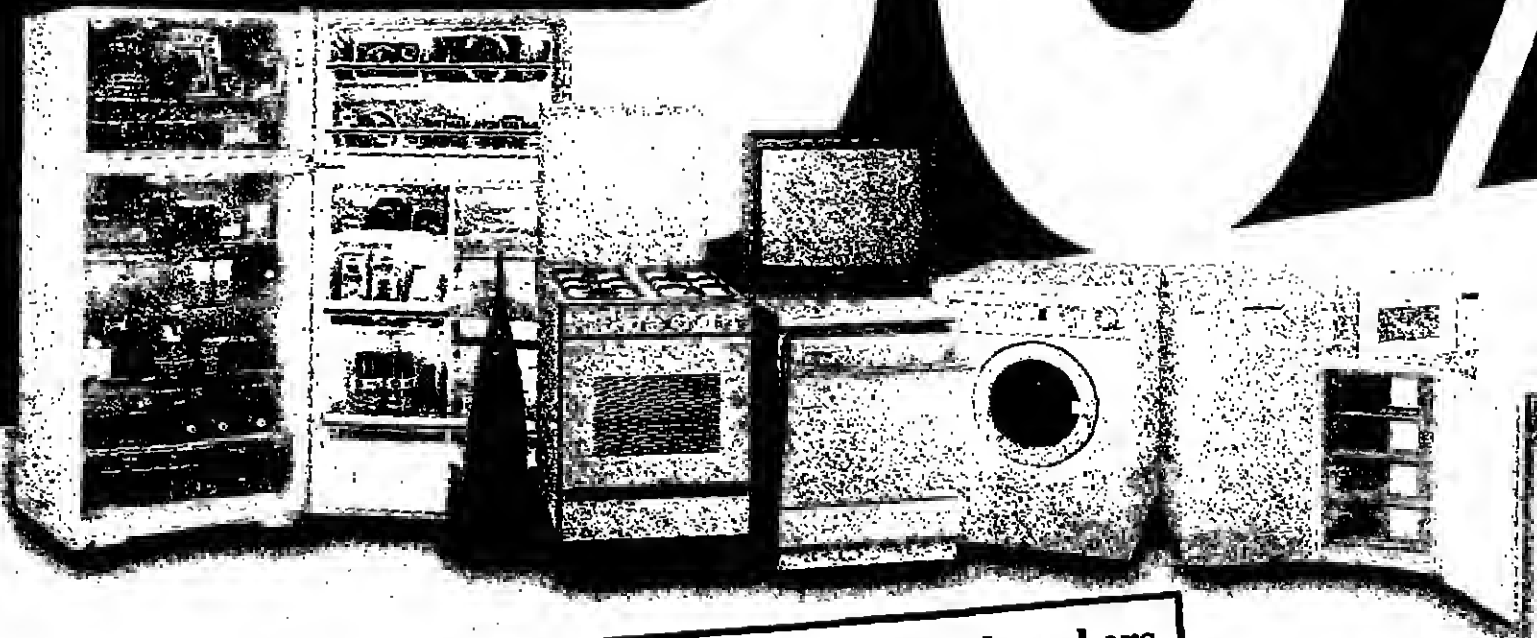
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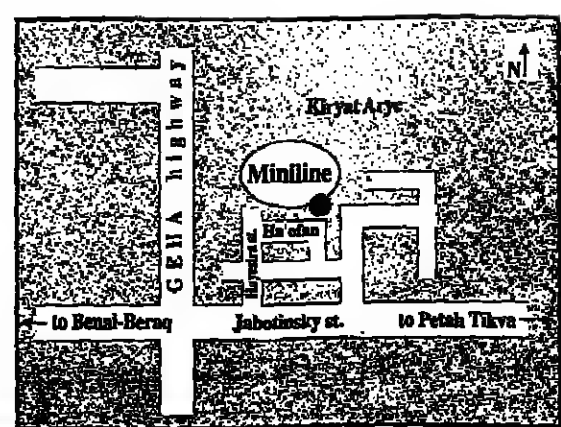
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Fujimori flatly rejects terrorists' demands

MICHAEL STOTT
LIMA

PRESIDENT Alberto Fujimori has flatly rejected the main demand of Marxist rebels holding about 340 hostages in Peru, telling them to surrender but offering nothing concrete in return.

In his first public remarks since the crisis broke, a stern-faced Fujimori denounced the hostage-takers as terrorists on national television Saturday night and spurned their plea for the freeing of more than 400 jailed comrades.

"It is clear that the freeing of those who perpetrated murders and terrorist attacks is unacceptable according to current Peruvian law and for reasons of national security," Fujimori said.

"My proposal is clear: Let the captors put down their arms and allow the evacuation of all the hostages without exception. Like this, the possibility of using the force of the Peruvian state will be ruled out and then, with all guarantees, a solution can be studied."

Fujimori's harsh words left the hostage crisis in stalemate on its fifth day. Reflecting the lack of substantive talks, Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda flew home after nearly three days of fruitless non-stop diplomacy.

In London, a newspaper said the rebels demanded a huge ransom in return for release of the Japanese hostages.

The *Independent on Sunday* newspaper quoted an unnamed European diplomat as saying the terrorists were seeking several billion dollars from Japanese corporations.

"And the chances are they'll get a decent percentage of that. There's a lot of bilateral negotiating going on," the unnamed diplomat, who

narrowly escaped the terrorists' assault on Tuesday, was quoted as saying.

The Japanese firms include Mitsubishi, NEC and Toyota, according to the newspaper, which said negotiations were being conducted by cellular telephone.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto predicted yesterday the crisis would not be resolved quickly.

"A considerable time would be needed to resolve (the crisis)," Hashimoto told reporters.

"We think we are at a stage where we shift our demands from the safety of the hostages to the immediate release of the hostages," Hashimoto said. "It is the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement's turn to respond."

Before leaving Lima, Ikeda said Fujimori's "proposal as a whole" was an appropriate solution but ducked questions about the specific words used by the Peruvian president. Japan and Peru last week differed sharply over the handling of the crisis.

As light came up at the elegant residence yesterday, left in darkness all night after the electricity service was cut and a generator ran out of fuel, there was no new word from guerrilla leader Nestor Cerpa.

Cerpa, speaking by radio from the residence on Saturday, promised that more hostages not connected to the government would be freed soon but said the fate of others depended on the government's posture.

Police refused to allow Red Cross workers through their lines to bring lanterns into the residence. Japan previously indicated it was not told before Peru cut power to what is technically Japanese territory.



Rwandan refugees walk along a road near Kibungu, in southeastern Rwanda, early after dawn yesterday. After two years of living in Tanzanian camps, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees have returned to their home country in the last week. See story below.

Beleaguered Major relishes election fight

LONDON (Reuters) - His parliamentary majority has gone, his party is deeply split over Europe, and he trails badly in opinion polls, but defiant Prime Minister John Major said yesterday he was relishing Britain's looming election battle.

In his last television interview of another turbulent year, Major said he was looking forward to "direct contact" with the voters to expound his government's economic record.

"No government will ever have gone into a general election since the Second World War with the economy in such good shape, with the prospects for the future in such good order as they are at the moment," Major said.

Broken promises not to raise taxes and Britain's humiliating ejection from the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992 are among the reasons Major's Conservative Party is getting scant credit for the economic recovery now under way.

With a general election due by May 22 at the latest, polls show the Conservatives adrift of the main opposition Labor Party by more than 20 percentage points.

Major admitted some of his government's policies had been unpopular, but he said they had been necessary for the long-term health of the economy.

"I relish the opportunity of explaining that to the British nation and setting out our plans for the future," Major said.

Unemployment fell below two million this week for the first time in six years, while take-home pay in the year to September rose at the fastest rate since the go-go years of the 1980s.

But Major's precarious position in parliament means he could find it hard to soldier on until May.

Serb opposition forms 'shadow' city governments

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - About 100,000 protesters marched against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday, soon after his opponents formed shadow governments in places he allegedly stole elections.

The demonstrations, for the 33rd straight day, protested Milosevic's annulment of November 17 election results in dozens of towns and cities where the opposition gained more votes.

A heavy rain did not appear to dampen the spirit of the protesters, who jeered and booed as they marched by intensely pro-Milosevic state television in Belgrade.

"Milosevic is provoking a civil war," read a banner, alluding to counter-demonstrations being orchestrated by his camp, including one planned in Belgrade tomorrow.

In Smederevo, southeast of the capital, functionaries of Milosevic's Socialist party convened a demonstration in support of the president. About 1,000 people were based in.

As in past rallies staged by Milosevic's subordinates, slogans on their placards and banners were written in the same script. Opposition leader Zoran Djindjic explained the shadow governments, which the opposition believes should be in power.

"We want (to be) the regular authorities, not a parallel," he said at the ceremony establishing the organization. "This is going to be a network of municipalities in which the (opposition) coalition won."

Djindjic also announced that the opposition planned to launch its own radio and television networks and that they would broadcast illegally if they had to.

Greek farmers lift blockade; tough budget passes

ATHENS (Reuters) - Militant farmers yesterday lifted their road and rail blockades which had crippled Greece and let land transport move freely for the first time in 24 days.

It was a major victory for socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who had refused to yield to the farmers' demands and said his government had no more money to give.

The farmers' barricades, made up of thousands of tractors parked on road and rail links, had caused transport chaos and inflicted more than \$100 million damage on the economy.

The ragtag army of 10,000 tractors, which had cut off whole regions of Greece, vanished within hours of the decision to call off the

protest by the main farmers' committee in Thessaly.

Long stretches of national motorways looked like abandoned refugee camps. Public clean-up crews moved in quickly to clear the mess and firetrucks hosed down roads with water cannon.

Miles of debris were left behind by the farmers, who had set up sprawling tent cities which developed into elaborate camps with television sets and generators to light up Christmas trees.

The farmers' protest had been crumbling in many regions in recent days, with Simitis saying repeatedly he would not yield and he would not talk until the barricades came down.

The final collapse came when the Thessaly farmers, where the protests began and where the most militant farmers had held out to the last, voted yesterday to lift their barricades.

The Thessaly farmers' committee said it took the decision as a goodwill Christmas gesture to the Greek public which, it said, had supported the farmers throughout their futile struggle.

The farmers had wanted lower fuel prices, higher price supports, lower Value Added Tax (VAT) on equipment and the rescheduling of \$1.3 billion in debts.

For Simitis, who has imposed harsh economic reforms since winning September elections, it was the latest in a series of recent victories over angry workers and farmers.

No sign of relief for refugees in Zaire village

TINGI-TINGI, Zaire (Reuters) - Thousands may die if no food is distributed in the next few days among Rwandan refugees trapped in squalor in the remote Zaire village of Tingi-Tingi, medical workers said.

Up to 120,000 Rwandans have fled to Tingi-Tingi, many walking for more than a month and surviving on roots and leaves, after fighting broke out between Rwandan-backed rebels and Zairean troops in eastern Zaire in October.

"There is no food for the vast majority of the people. If there is no food distribution between now and Christmas, thousands will be dead," said a French medical

worker with the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

"We try to help. There is a rudimentary health service on the ground," the worker told reporters who visited Tingi-Tingi at the weekend.

There is still no organized feeding at Tingi-Tingi by international relief agencies except for occasional supplies of high-nutrition biscuits by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

There are no toilets and the only source of water is a nearby stream, clearly polluted by the teeming population of sickly people.

Belfast car-bomb may signal end of Protestant truce

BELFAST (AP) - A car bomb wounded a prominent Irish Republican Army supporter yesterday, signaling the apparent end of a 26-month truce by pro-British Protestant militants.

No one claimed responsibility for the small bomb, which had potentially huge ramifications for Northern Ireland's deteriorating peace process, particularly for Catholic areas, if "loyalist" paramilitary groups have resumed their terror campaign.

Loyalists, who want to maintain British rule in Northern Ireland, have maintained their cease-fire despite the Irish Republican Army's decision in February to resume hostilities against British rule. The IRA has killed about 1,800 people since 1970, loyalists about 900.

But retaliation became likely after an IRA gunman on Friday shot at several police officers guarding a Protestant politician in a children's hospital. One officer was wounded as Nigel Dodds, a former Belfast mayor, visited his 7-year-old son.

Eddie Copeland, 35, suffered leg wounds yesterday as he started his Honda Civic outside his parents' house in Ardoyne, a Catholic enclave of north Belfast surrounded by Protestant districts. The blast blew off the car's hood but caused little surrounding damage.

"Eddie was in a bad way. His leg was all open, but he was conscious," said neighbor Joe Lee, who helped staunch the flow of blood until medics, police and soldiers arrived.

The cease-fire by the loyalist groups, principally the outlawed Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force, had held through continuing IRA bombings this year, most recently October 7 on the British army's headquarters in Northern Ireland.

David Ervine, a former Ulster Volunteer Force member who now leads a UVF-affiliated party in peace negotiations, said yesterday's bombing marked "potentially the beginning of a spiral" back toward tit-for-tat killings.

Negotiations on Northern Ireland's future began in June but have made little progress. The IRA's allied Sinn Fein party was barred because of resumed violence, and now loyalist politicians risk being barred.

"We are not the Protestant (version of) Sinn Fein," Ervine said. "And if loyalism returns to war, we won't be representing them in talks."

In October 1993, Copeland was shot in the stomach by an angry British soldier when he was at the funeral wake for an IRA man who killed himself and nine Protestant civilians while trying to bomb the UDA headquarters.

The British soldier was later jailed for 10 years.

David Trimble, Protestant leader of Northern Ireland's largest party, the Ulster Unionists, in 1994 told British Parliament that Copeland was one of three IRA "godfathers" in Belfast.

Yesterday's attack came an hour after a nationally televised peace rally attracted only a small crowd in front of Belfast City Hall, the spot where President Clinton addressed tens of thousands during his November 1995 visit.

About 600 people watched local celebrities, among them Van Morrison protege Brian Kennedy, sing and release peace doves.

"It's a big disappointment," said east Belfast resident Peter McQuade. "I would have thought more people would have come. The events of the last few days are so depressing. I think they have lost their enthusiasm for peace."

Final curtain comes down for Mastroianni

ROME (Reuters) - Marcello Mastroianni, one of Europe's most famous film stars and a legend in his native Italy, was buried yesterday after a rousing open air funeral service in the heart of the city.

Hundreds of ordinary Italians packed a small square on top of the Capitoline hill for the brief ceremony, with Mastroianni's simple wooden coffin laid out on a red carpet in front of the majestic civic hall.

A small bunch of roses lay on the coffin.

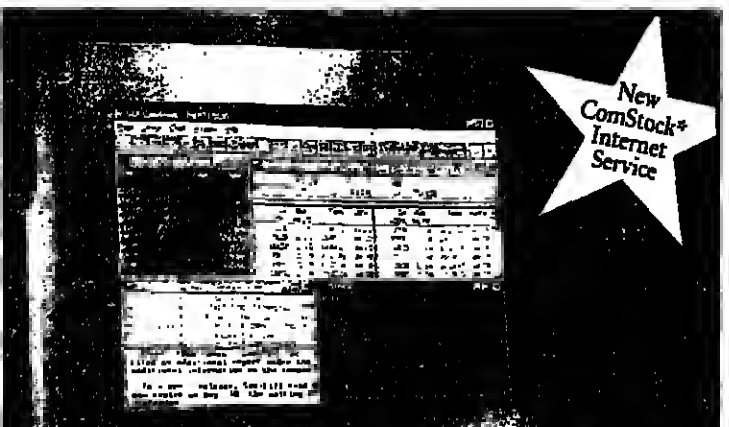
Mastroianni's widow, Flora Carabella, his daughter Barbara and actress Sofia Loren sat quietly to one side as friends paid tribute to the great Italian film idol who died last week in Paris of cancer at the age of 72.

His former lover, the French actress Catherine Deneuve, and their daughter Chiara Mastroianni, were not present.

"For millions of people, saddened by his death, Mastroianni was just a sparkle of light in a darkened room," said deputy prime minister Walter Veltroni.

After the service, held on warm, sunny winter's day, Mastroianni's coffin was taken to the Verano cemetery in the north of the city and buried in a family vault.

The actor, who starred in some 160 films opposite some of cinema's most beautiful women, was flown back to Rome Saturday and his coffin laid in a sumptuous room inside the Michelangelo-designed civic palace.



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A director's final serenity

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN

BEYOND THE CLOUDS

★★★

Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni, with Wim Wenders. Screenplay by Tonino Guerra. Antonioni and Wenders. Based on the book *Great Bowling and Tevere* by Antonioni. Hebrew title: *Me'ever Lananim*. 109 minutes. English, Italian and French dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.

With John Malkovich, Sophie Marceau, Fanny Ardant, Jean Reno, Irene Jacob, Vincent Perez, Peter Weller, Ines Sastre, Jeanne Moreau and Marcello Mastroianni.

Beyond the Clouds is a movie so fragile in its conception and execution that to talk about it in the usual critical terms seems to risk breaking the delicate spell that it casts, both as a free-standing art object and, it appears, as Michelangelo Antonioni's self-inscribed epitaph. For all its problems (and there are several), the film leaves one quiet and strangely content. The icy, ominous calm of the director's earlier works has given way to something else warmer, lighter and — almost — free.

Aged 82, the victim of a stroke some 13 years ago that left him nearly incapable of speech, Antonioni is obviously not at the height of his powers. And there are, it should be said, many who felt impatience verging on disgust with the films he made as a younger, healthier man. Patenting what *New Yorker* critic Pauline Kael dubbed "upper-class neorealism — the poetry of moral and spiritual poverty," Antonioni depicted a swank, hollow world of slick surfaces, thin commitments and beautiful, gorgeously dressed zombies, sleepwalking through life. (Another critic, Andrew Sarris, coined the phrase "Antonioniism.")

Beyond the Clouds is not likely to change the minds of those deafest against the director. Neither will it win him hordes of brand new admirers. But for those already attached to his films — and for others, like this reviewer,



John Malkovich, the gaunt-looking narrator, has an exchange with Sophie Marceau.

whose feelings are respectfully mixed — the movie stands as a small, satisfying coda to a distinguished career.

Beginning in the pale morning light of his home town, Ferrara, the picture consists of four short love stories, each set in a different Italian or French city. None of these episodes is remarkable in and of itself — in fact, several are rather banal, almost self-parodies of the director's notorious non-plots (boy meets girl, loses her, meets her after a few years, takes her to bed but flees before consummating his passion), pet themes (communication frustrated, love denied) and visual gestures (human figures dwarfed by

grand buildings, fog banks lapping around the De Chirico-styled colonnades of a deserted Italian town square).

Taken together, however, the fragments form a moving chronicle of what can only be described as an elderly director's last-ditch attempt to pack in as many potent images and emotions as he can before he dies: aside from the usual bleakness, desperation, and grimly puffing smokestacks, he shows surprising wit here and, in several scenes, he brings his characters closer to sustained erotic engagement than ever. In the closing frames, the camera crawls up the side of a hotel in Aix-en-Provence, pecking in on the

tableaux behind three or four windows and then coming to rest. Again, we sense Antonioni's melancholy impatience at being able to photograph only so much, at being able to tell such a limited number of stories before his time is up.

The final scene is, actually, the work of Wim Wenders, into whose hands fell the rather thankless task of directing the opening, closing, and connecting sequences. These homage-like interludes — scripted from Antonioni's dry, theoretical writings about cinema, peppered with in-jokes for the filmmaker's buffs, and narrated by a gaunt-looking John Malkovich — are the most leaden and least successful in

the movie, though they also perform the difficult, necessary task of bringing together all the disparate bits and parts that fill the rest of the picture.

Perhaps the failure of the cinematic bookends to tidily explain and contain all these complex sensations indicates just how much variety of feeling Antonioni really has managed to cram into his probable swan song. *Beyond the Clouds* is too conceptually messy to be a masterpiece; much of the acting is stiff and the dialogue sometimes embarrassing ("I'm enslaved by your silence" etc.). But the film has about it an angelic aspect, a serenity that blankets these quibbles.

A dramatic reading of Rilling

MEISELSSOHN: St. Paul, Op. 36; RILLING: Gachinger Kantorei Stuttgart, Prague Chamber Choir, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Haussler Classic (CD 98.926). DVORAK: Stabat Mater, Op. 58 — Helmuth Rilling, Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival Choir, Haussler Classic (CD 98.935).

HELMUTH Rilling needs no introduction whatsoever in Israel. The illustrious German choral conductor has been here on more than a few occasions with his first-rate Gachinger Kantorei performing a vast and varied choral repertoire ranging from Bach to later composers. At the same time the maestro has worked with his exceptional choir in Stuttgart, he has also created an impressive choral body on the other side of the Atlantic, in Oregon.

It is no doubt thanks to Rilling that the Oregon Bach Festival has become one of the most popular music festivals in the US. And now one can compare Rilling's two choral ensembles as two important new recordings come out on the always-intriguing Haussler Classic German label.

CLASSIC DISCS
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Mendelssohn is not immediately considered a choral composer although he has contributed some fine oratorios to the repertoire, first and foremost *Elijah*.

His *St. Paul* oratorio is the work of a young and eager musician who is ready to create great powerful dramas on the concert stage. By its nature and subject matter, this is a very religious opus that glorifies the magnitude of the creator.

And although it lacks the intensity or the dramatic storytelling element so eminent in Bach on the one hand, and even the great flowing numbers of *Elijah* on the other, it is a most commanding piece that has more than a few beautiful moments to it.

Rilling and his choir give the most here. In fact it seems that they give this opus much more than its own musical merits. It is a powerful, dramatic, and very Germanic reading of the score, a fully driven musical outburst that has joy and drama written all over it. And as usual, Rilling's soloists are all first rate and in this case especially, Michael Shade and Andreas Schmidt are two first-rate oratorio

singers. In many ways, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* is a much more important work in the choral repertoire. It is a well-written opus that shows a Dvorak rather remote from the composer who traveled later in his life to the US and was influenced by the music he heard there.

This is a very somber and serene work, in tune with its subject, that at times even lacks the lyric flow of the opera *Rusalka*.

At the same time, it is a very delicate, humble and gentle opus, somewhat too long yet never redundant, and which musically is much better and more rewarding than *St. Paul*.

However, it seems that the American choir and orchestra are less akin to the style than the European ones Rilling uses in *St. Paul* which leads to a rather mixed performance in which one enjoys first-rate solo singing, from James Taylor and also from the exceptional Thomas Quasthoff, but in which the choral singing is not as professional and stylistic as one expects from a Rilling ensemble. That said, this too, like the *St. Paul*, is a very important and professional recording of a work every choral lover should be familiar with.

Lortie ready for local audiences again

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

TWO years ago, Haifa music lovers were introduced for the first time to one of the leading pianists of our generation — Canadian-born, Berlin-based Louis Lortie, who stunned one and all in his sweeping performance of the Rachmaninoff Second Piano Concerto. Now, Lortie is returning to Haifa to play the Schumann Piano Concerto — quite a different composition, one that will probably showcase the lyric and chamber-musician within him.

Speaking by phone from Paris, Lortie, 37, talks with a lot of passion and enthusiasm about the work he is about to play with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. "For me, it's almost a chamber-music concerto because many soloists in the orchestra have solo parts in it, especially the clarinet and cellos. There is a lot of interaction with people in the orchestra. It's a very participating piece for everybody."

But there is no doubt that this concerto is not really considered a virtuoso piece. "Of course when you compare it to Liszt or Saint-Saens it's not so much virtuoso. And indeed, Schumann was not that much interested in virtuosity — you must remember that he himself could not play it, so it wasn't a display piece for him."

Rather, Schumann wrote the concerto for his wife, Clara. "Both were very serious musicians who disliked people who made a circus out of the music. They even considered Liszt as not really serious. They were very strict German classicists worshipping Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, with very little interest in the virtuoso nature of Italian opera like Liszt and even Chopin. Schumann was much more interested in pure writing."

Lortie has two dozen discs to his credit, mostly for Chandos, and mostly recitals. "In solo discs you have much more control and you have much more time. With orchestras there's much less time and it's not so comfortable. I always like to find out how it works, it's nice to be able to listen and go back and correct, but this can be done only when I'm the only musician involved."

And would he ever consider



Lortie is prepared to show the chamber musician within.

playing the Schumann, or any other concerto for that matter, on so-called period instruments like fortepiano, for example? "I find it very interesting and I don't feel disturbed by it, but with older instruments you need a technician with you all the time and it's very complicated. I don't have the time to investigate right now, but I would be very curious because I do find the sound very beautiful."

That said, Lortie argues that the instrument is not the major problem and should never be. "Ninety-five percent of the problems remain with the interpretation. There's no point in concentrating on the sound. Sound is no more than a little detail which doesn't matter. I'm an interpreter myself, that's my obsession. The main thing for me is always style, and I'm very conservative in that matter. I must always have a historical sequence, nobody comes out of nowhere. Nowadays a lot of people have just personality, but what does that mean? The beauty of the phrasing is much more interesting. Mannerism annoys me. I must feel a long musical line and not just short flashes."

Louis Lortie plays the Schumann Piano Concerto with the HSO under music director Stanley Sperber tonight, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Courage through the baton

HELEN KAYE

IN 1949 the Chicago Symphony invited Wilhelm Furtwängler to become its conductor. An infuriated Artur Schnabel sent a published cable to the orchestra which said, "I refuse to cooperate with the man who sided with Hitler, Goering and Goebbels..."

The invitation was rescinded, even though the Allies' Denazification Court had acquitted him of collaboration with the Nazis in 1947. And although Furtwängler resumed his musical career that same year, the accusation that he was "Satan's Maestro" stuck. In 1954, the man who has been called the greatest conductor of the century died broken, and broken-hearted.

"There was a second Allied denazification hearing," says director Micha Lewensohn, "that gave Furtwängler a much harder time. Ronald Harwood used the transcripts from that as the basis for his play."

The play is *Taking Sides* (The Conductor in Hebrew), a Cameri Theater production which is currently previewing at ZOA House. In it Furtwängler (Oded Teomi), faces Major Steve Arnold (Natan Dattner), an enraged and outraged American officer who says, "I'm gonna nail him," before Furtwängler even walks through the door of his office in that bitter



Furtwängler (Oded Teomi, right) faces Major Steve Arnold (Natan Dattner) in Cameri's 'Taking Sides.'

Berlin winter of 1946. "There's a problem playing Furtwängler here," says Teomi, "because as myself I automatically take Arnold's side, but as Furtwängler I have to plunge myself into this character who's literally fighting for his life."

In the mid-1930s when leading and non-Jewish artists and intellectuals like the writer Thomas Mann were exiling themselves from Nazi Germany, Furtwängler elected to stay, not because he identified with the regime but because of a genuine, though naive, belief that he could save musical culture from the Third Reich. Of course the Nazi monsters waved him like a flag. For Teomi, Furtwängler reveals

his credo near the end of the play when he says, "I know that a single performance of a great masterpiece was a stronger and more vital negation of the spirit of Buchenwald and Auschwitz than words..."

Furtwängler did more than wave his baton though. He saved hundreds of Jews, including one of the Berlin Philharmonic's violinists whom he refused to fire.

Dattner says that "Arnold's problem isn't proving collaboration, that's easy. It's that the totalitarian regime wraps itself in a cloak of legitimacy by saying look, these are great artists, and they work with us. He isn't objective. He's going to prove Furtwängler guilty because he knows he is."

NEWS OF THE MUSE

Holy music

Noam Sheriff's *Jerusalem Psalms*, which was premiered a year ago in Jerusalem as part of the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations, was recently performed at the Warsaw Opera House within a special series devoted to the choral masterpieces of the 20th century. The series also includes compositions by Mahler, Bruckner and Penderecki. The composer himself was on the podium.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Winning player

Young Israeli pianist Ailon Goldstein won the gold medal at the Wideman Piano Competition earlier this month. Goldstein won a cash award of \$2,500 and concert engagements. Goldstein was selected unanimously by the judges from the 11 finalists after performing the Second Piano Concerto by Saint-Saens.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Premieres

The Bat Dor Dance Company is premiering three new short works on December 30. They are Nils Christie's *Sym. Song of Songs* by Philippe Trebet whose company was seen at the International Dance Competition in October, and *Ring* (a provisional title) by Bat Dor's own Anya Brud.

Helen Kaye

Future of British theater uncertain

Britain's world-class theaters face the final curtain unless the government saves them from a potentially disastrous cash crisis. An independent commission probing the future of the British stage said state-subsidized theaters are the backbone of the £1 billion (\$1.7 billion) arts industry.

Rejecting accusations that they represent elitist pandering to London's "chattering classes," the commission said theaters nationwide attract an annual audience of 23 million compared to 21.8 million who go to soccer matches.

"Great institutions do not suddenly die, they decay and, however vibrant our theater may still seem, that decay is beginning to show," warned the commission chairman, former newspaper editor Stewart Steven.

Reuter

Rock 'n' roll no more

Joni Mitchell isn't sure what to think about her induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. "I don't know whether I should be proud or think it's silly, since rock 'n' roll died so long ago," she told *The New York Times*. "Today's music isn't rock 'n' roll. There's no happy, rolling push beat to it. These days, the folk music icon is listening to Debussy, country's old Sons of the Pioneers, and some Stravinsky I'd overlooked."

AP

Judge calls Morrissey 'devious' in Smiths royalties case

Drummer Mike Joyce won a bigger cut of royalties last week from his old band, The Smiths, which broke up in 1987, but whose compilation album, *Best...7*, was a No. 1 album in Britain in 1992. Press Association, the British news agency, said Joyce could get £1 million after winning his claim for 25 percent of the group's royalties.

Quintessence Johnny Marr and singer Morrissey, who founded the Manchester-based group in 1982, contended that they had an agreement which gave them 40 percent of the royalties each, and 10 percent for Joyce and bass guitarist Andy Rourke. The bassist, who initially joined Joyce in the suit, settled out of court for £33,000, Press Association said.

Morrissey, who was not in court, issued a statement saying he was considering an appeal. Judge John Weeks said Joyce and Rourke seemed "straightforward and honest" in their testimony, but he found Morrissey to be "devious, treacherous and unreliable..." He added that Marr "seemed to me to be willing to embroider his evidence."

AP

Israel's leading comedy club goes Anglo

TIRZAH AGASSI

THE Camel Comedy Club, those folks who brought you Gil Kopatch, and most of Israel's other bright, young stand-up comics, is now offering equal opportunity for Anglos.

The Camel's Amateur Night, which takes place every Thursday, is a mix of monologues by pros and amateurs (Fridays and Saturdays are reserved for the pros alone).

Most of last week's line-up was young, good-humored and concerned with sex, or the lack of it. A Chicagoan called Charley exemplified the spirit of the evening. He was cute, had good timing and a very nice stage presence. At least half of the audience

had no trouble with the language and he was given a warm reception. Much of his material about Mom, TV and getting older wasn't wildly novel. However, his riff comparing American street gangs and local haredim was interesting.

Both groups, he pointed out, beat up on women, don't work, have 12 kids in three rooms and consider themselves above the law.

Anglos interested in following his lead are invited to contact producer Ben Zeidel at 050-210280 and/or drop into the club at 11 Yebuda Margozza St., Jaffa, at about 11 on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights.



SEE IT IN HEBREW HEAR IT IN ENGLISH!

COMEDY OF ERRORS

December 24, 1996 at 8:30 p.m.

The smash-hit production of Shakespeare's classic comedy, set in a modern, war-torn Middle Eastern city, with dazzling stage effects that include drums, gunshots, torch lights and even belly dancing.

A FAMILY STORY

December 31, 1996 at 8:30 p.m.

While reading her grandmother's diaries, Naomi stumbles on a dark family secret that changes her life forever. This story traces the life of the Stein family, from Heidelberg, Germany, in 1935, to Israel in the early 70's, while in the background, historical events unfold and secrets are revealed.

THE TEMPEST

January 11, 1997 at 4:30 and 9:00 p.m.

January 12, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The Cameri Theater proudly presents the British theater company, Shared Experience with their production of Shakespeare's classic, *The Tempest*. The play will be performed in English, with a simultaneous translation into Hebrew. "Theatre doesn't come much more exciting than this." *Daily Telegraph*

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The Cameri Theatre can now be found on the Internet at the following address:
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No unilateral concessions

If there was one idea that swept Binyamin Netanyahu into the Prime Minister's Office it was this: no more unilateral concessions. In a groundbreaking interview in this newspaper on Friday, senior policy adviser David Bar-Illan revealed that his boss might be willing to make the ultimate concession, the creation of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu must move quickly now to prevent this concession from becoming a unilateral one that would make all the previous government's concessions look pale in comparison.

In remarks seeking to disassociate the government from Bar-Illan's views, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh effectively confirmed them.

"The previous government was heading toward a Palestinian state [that would reach] to the 1967 lines," said Naveh. "The public gave us a mandate for a different policy. When we enter permanent status negotiations, the prime minister will stand on the principle that there will be no Palestinian state with attributes of sovereignty that could harm the State of Israel." This statement leaves open exactly the possibility described by Bar-Illan, namely a Palestinian state with limits on its sovereignty in accordance with Israel's security needs. And Bar-Illan's statement squares with a point made repeatedly by the prime minister and other Likud leaders that there is not much difference between the "state-minus" concept of Labor and the Likud's "autonomy-plus" concept.

And according to other press reports, no less a figure than National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has entered the permanent status sweepstakes. Sharon has reportedly been holding discussions with Labor Party leader Shimon Peres concerning the borders Israel should seek in a permanent settlement. In parallel, Likud MK Michael Eitan and Labor MK Yossi Beilin have been leading a rolling discussion on the same topic at the Israel Democracy Institute. Third Way MK Yehuda Harel has also said that it is his party's ambition to broker a broad national agreement on Israel's final status position.

Everyone, it seems, is preparing permanent status maps for presentation to Netanyahu as a basis for a national consensus position. This is a welcome development. An Israeli national consensus would be good news for the government, for the peace process, for the country, and even for the Palestinians.

There is, however, a missing link in all this talk of maps that Netanyahu should have been the first to point out. The question is not just the borders and sovereignty of the Palestinian entity, but what Israel will receive in exchange for agreeing to its creation.

The Oslo Accords, stripped to their core, consist of a straightforward deal: limited sov-

ereignty for limited peace. Israel would withdraw from the major Arab cities without fully conceding sovereignty; the Palestinians would end violence without conceding their claim to a sovereign state.

Unwritten, but implicit in this deal was that the Palestinian threat of violence, ostensibly removed at the beginning, would not really be removed until the very end. Only when Israel and the Palestinians had agreed upon the full extent of Palestinian sovereignty would Israel be granted a full peace. The erstwhile architects of Israel's permanent status position have been focusing on the nature and extent of the Palestinian entity. As important is the nature of the peace Israel will receive in return. Will it be yet another renunciation of violence without a renunciation of the claims that justify violence? Or will it be a full peace treaty, in which all claims, such as the right of return, are resolved or abandoned? Israel's Right and Left should seek agreement not just over Israel's minimum security requirements but also over minimum peace requirements.

Just as Israel's territorial concessions to Syria are tied to the depth of peace that Syria would agree to, the nature of Palestinian sovereignty must be linked to the peace that the Palestinians would implement.

It is in Israel's interest to lay out the nature of the peace it is seeking now, just as the Palestinians are clear about the state that they want.

Despite Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat's recognition of Israel in word and deed, he has been careful not to close the door entirely on the "strategy of stages," in which a Palestinian state would be a stepping stone to continuing the war against Israel. The key question of a final status agreement is how tightly and permanently this door will be closed.

The Israeli Right is being asked to swallow the idea of a Palestinian state. In exchange, the Left should be willing to commit itself to the idea that, if the Palestinians are unwilling to sign the fullest possible peace, then the Left would reject a state. In addition, the Left should back demands for full Palestinian implementation of provisions of the interim agreement that affect Israel's security, such as the requirement to disarm Palestinian militias.

Another reason Netanyahu was elected was the hope among Israelis that a government of the Right would be better positioned to forge a national consensus toward achieving peace. The key to reaching this consensus is to map out the structure of peace as clearly as the map of Palestinian sovereignty, and to tightly link the two. This linkage is also the key to preventing speculation about a state from becoming a unilateral concession, taken as a given while the nature of peace is left for negotiation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EQUAL EDUCATION

Sir, - Susan Bellos's op-ed article of December 16, "Ms. Buzaglio and Ms. Bernstein" inaccurately and repeatedly insists that there is a qualitative difference between education for Sephardi and Ashkenazi pupils.

Ms. Bellos writes, "The real issue is the educational discrimination suffered by children from poor, usually non-Western backgrounds... less than a quarter of Mizrahi [Sephardi] teenagers in Israel go on to university, as compared to two-thirds of pupils from Western backgrounds." She then offers the following strange explanation for the above phenomenon: "It might also just be because almost all the secondary schools in low-income Mizrahi neighborhoods offer mostly non-academic tracks. Studies there rarely lead to a full matriculation certificate, without which you cannot begin university studies in Israel."

Contrary to Ms. Bellos's claims, all Israeli high schools, including those in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, offer a full matriculation track. Ms. Bellos also ignores the NIS 420 million recently approved by the government to help weaker Israeli pupils succeed with their matriculation exams. This assistance is part of extensive government action to improve the matriculation chances for development-town pupils. The extraordinary matriculation results obtained by Yeroham pupils are a clear example of the effectiveness of government policies in this area. A full matriculation track and equal education are available to all Israeli pupils. Buzaglio and Bernstein's alike. It's up to the individual pupil to succeed.

BENNY SHOUKRUN,
Spokesman, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport Jerusalem.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Sir, - I was recently present at the impressive signing of an agreement for the sale of Israeli-produced technology for monitoring driver behavior (detecting speed and tailgating) to the French government.

This technology, although invented many years ago by Professor Gerry Ben David of the Center for Driver Research, "came of age" only after a successful project in Netanyahu between January and July of this year produced dramatic results in lowering speeds and reducing significantly the number of deaths and serious injuries - this in comparison to previous years and in relation to a "control" group of 10 towns around the country.

The project, known as Mathea (prevention of accidents in towns), should have included other towns in the Sharon area. Despite remarkable results, it was stopped after six months, even though the head of the Road Safety Authority promised in May that, if the results showed even a 20 percent improvement, he would see that the project be implemented in towns all over Israel.

Our organization, Metuma, was instrumental in pushing this project together (after a two-year battle) with the Road Safety Administration, the police and local authorities.

As the year draws to a close and the death and serious-injury toll on our roads remains higher than in any other Western country (in the past four years), we must ask ourselves whether the French government has a higher regard for the lives and safety of its subjects than ours does.

IVAN POPE,
National Chairperson, Metuma Netanya.

HOW TO DEAL WITH TERROR

Sir, - The best headline seen in years appeared on December 13: "PM: our answer to terror - build and settle."

Also, Yoel Tzur, husband and father of wife and son killed in drive-by terror shooting, made a heroic statement: "At every place where a Jew is harmed, a settlement should be established, or expanded."

I hope that these opinions will remain and be the main theme of how to deal with terror in the future. That would make every Arab who goes out to attack an involuntary participant in strengthening the Jewish settlements.

RUNA BRUNELL
Ra'anana.

THE STONE OF SCONE

Sir, - Your correspondent of December 16 suggests that the Stone of Scone be tested and that, should the legends of its Israeli (Jacobite?) origin prove true, it should be returned to Israel.

Readers of the Post who have been made familiar with the stone's legendary journey, from Eretz Yisrael to Egypt, Ireland and Scotland at the hands of Scots (Pharaoh's daughter), will be comforted to know that the Scentish Coronation Stone has been tested and has proven to be Scottish sandstone quarried near Scone.

ARIEH NUSBACHER
Oxford, England.

OPINION

The Knesset goes on-line

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

I am not an Internet fan. In fact, I am a little scared of its potentially destructive social implications, as I am of all modern developments which enable human beings to lead their lives from behind a computer screen, without any human contact, on the one hand, and lacking

We should always remember that the Internet is a means, not an end. It will never replace a real face

the touch of tangible, touchable materials such as paper, on the other.

I am also concerned about the ease with which one can lose focus and sight of time, while floating through endless Internet sites.

And yet, just under a year ago I found myself at the center of a creative team, engaged in the setting up of the monumental Knesset Internet site (the Knesset), which is formally opening today at 2 p.m. (<http://www.knesset.gov.il>).

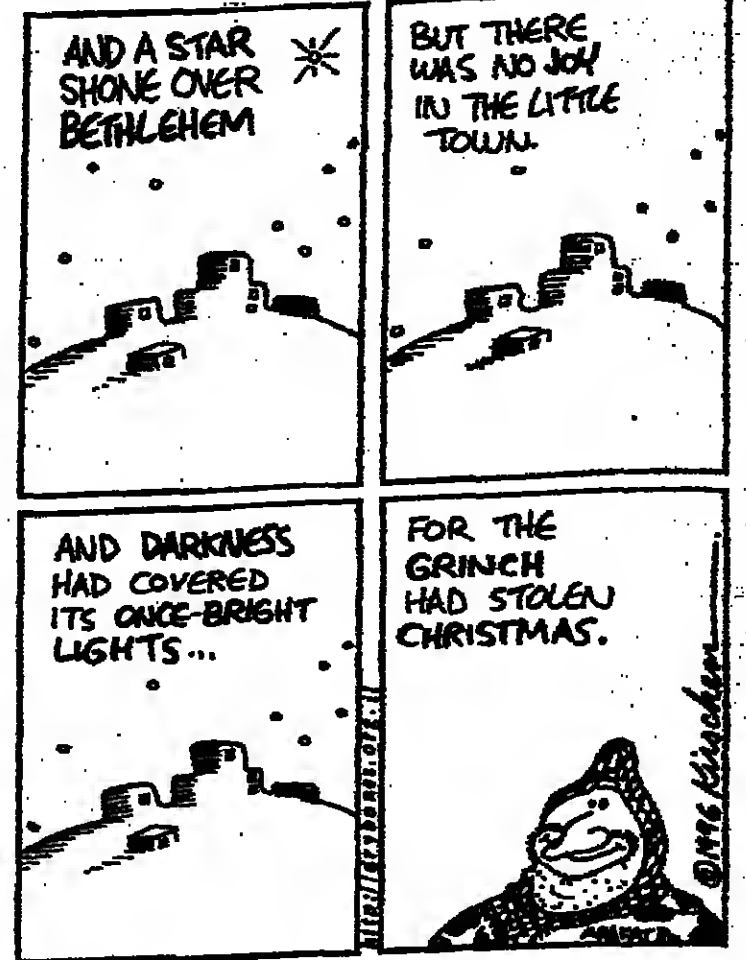
The Knesset is the brainchild of Likud MK Michael Eitan, who had dreams of using the Internet in order to turn the Knesset into a source of useful information (for example, as of today you will be able see the whole national budget proposal, on your computer screens at home) as well as a platform on which some of the principles of direct democracy can be practiced. Eitan threw his fantasy into our

laps, and then didn't let go until its very last detail was translated by means of HTML (the computer program one uses to place texts, pictures and soundtracks in Internet, and which makes a site easily accessible to anyone with a web browser) into what is without doubt one of the most impressive sites on the Web. Eitan frequently drove the team to the brink with his crazes, but managed to get the best out of all of us by refusing to take "impossible" as an answer. Personally, I must thank him for bringing back the joy of creation into my life (despite the occasional anger and frustration).

The Knesset site is made up of two main sections. One is static, the other active and interactive. The static part of the site includes a visual tour of the Knesset building, and hundreds of pages of information about the parliament, its members, its history, its place within the Israeli system of government, the way it works and the laws it passes, with thousands of hyper-text connections (mostly within the site itself, but also to external sites), hundreds of photographs, and numerous video clips and sound tracks, which are scattered amongst the written texts.

The active-interactive part will enable the public to keep track of what is going on in the Knesset. For example, various links contain the full text of the Knesset minutes, starting with the 10th Knesset and continuing up to the most recent sittings of the plenum. It will allow users to contact MKs and participate in practical discussion groups on bills which are in the process of being enacted, and in discussions on more academic issues connected with the Israeli parliamentary system. Most of the static part of the

Dry Bones



site will soon be available on the Web in English as well (as of today, one can already tour the Knesset in English).

Keeping this giant running smoothly will undoubtedly prove to be an awesome task. If it goes well, it will certainly be something our democratic system will be able to be proud of, since it will enable direct citizen participation in at least some Knesset activities. Whether this experiment will succeed will largely depend on the quality of the input from the side of the public, and how successful the moderators will be in making optimal use of this input.

How does all this relate to what I said at the opening of this article? Since the Internet is here to

say, we should try to derive from it the best that it can offer, without becoming slavishly addicted to it. We should always remember that the Internet is a means, not an end. It is a means of acquiring information and knowledge, and it is a means through which we can try to influence and even meet new people, either by participating in discussion groups or by opening our own home-page. But it will never replace a real face-to-face discussion or confrontation and will never come instead of a visit to a museum or the Knesset itself, just as a recording on a record or compact disc will never replace the concert hall.

The writer is a political scientist.

The road to hell

FELICITY AMOCH

HIGHER fines for traffic violations went into effect last week as part of another plan to reduce road deaths and injuries. The plan is based on the experience of traffic police in Victoria, Australia, where, over a five-year period, the number of traffic accidents was cut by half.

But the difference is that in Victoria the plan was backed by the equivalent of (the compulsory) Avner Insurance, local authorities, and the Ministry of Transport, as well as by an extensive public awareness campaign. In Israel, the plan is supported by the government - which can at any time plead lack of funds to discontinue any given project.

The head of the National Traffic Administration has already said that he simply does not have enough manpower to carry out the job, and that "there will be roads where you won't see a single traffic policeman."

Over the years, many brave statements have been issued by ministers and concerned Knesset members. Countless proposals, bills, resolutions and recommendations have been put forward. In June and September this year, Minister of Transport Yitzhak Levy demanded that a decision made last year to increase the traffic police by 425 men be implemented. Similar proposals were made as far back as September 1992 and March 1995.

In May 1995, according to a cabinet decision, it was promised that more police would monitor the roads. Then minister of transport Yisrael Kessar asked for more traffic police and improved traffic-control technology for use by police units nationwide. In August 1995, a five-year emergency program to include 3,600 traffic police was proposed by a special Knesset committee.

In March 1995, there was a planned major shake-up in the National Traffic Police, and a proposal was submitted to make the Traffic Police a department in the Police Ministry. Again, a recommendation was made to increase the number of traffic police by 2,500 men, and to add vehicles and enforcement equipment. That same month the Knesset Economics Committee approved a bill to significantly reduce road accidents, at a cost of NIS 7 million a year (road crash-

es cost the country an estimated NIS 3.4 billion annually).

In September 1995, a series of proposals were put forward by the Ministerial Committee on Road Accidents to the government, including an increase in traffic police with a new (reduced) goal of 1,800 men.

The road to hell we have had enough studies, inquiries, experiments, and futile gestures while the slaughter on the roads continues unabated. We have had enough studies, inquiries, experiments, and futile gestures while the slaughter on the roads continues unabated.

We have had enough studies, inquiries, experiments, and futile gestures while the slaughter on the roads continues unabated

assume from the current horrifying statistics that none of these recommendations were ever implemented.

If ONE needs evidence that extra police and roadside detection are effective, we only need to go back to January 1 this year, when the police issued a statement reiterating their need for more personnel to combat dangerous driving. An experiment that same day, when 1,000 extra police swamped the roads and reduced the national toll to 13 accidents and no deaths, proved their point.

On a normal day, with only 200 police, there would have been an average of 85 accidents and at least one death. The experiment has never been repeated and, since then, hundreds have died and thousands have been injured. It was a cynical exercise with no logical outcome.

In July this year, the Knesset spent an entire day discussing the deteriorating situation on our roads. MK Dan Tichon said he would not be satisfied with plenum debates and would establish (yet another) Knesset committee to keep the matter on the agenda. His approach angered some MKs. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani left

the meeting insulted by Tichon's "brutal manner." However, before walking out, he called for a greater police presence on the roads.

A few days later, Economics Committee chairman Elic Goldschmidt suggested that the NIS 20 million which has never been used by the Road Safety Fund be applied to hiring extra traffic police. That same day, it was announced that the only successful road-safety program ever implemented in Israel would have to be canceled for lack of funds. This program, using infrared cameras which produced oo-line fines to catch speeders

and tailgaters on Netanyahu's Ben Gurion Boulevard, reduced accidents by 45 percent over a period of nine months.

Incredibly, the Transport Ministry's latest plan also calls for cameras that record the speed and license plate numbers of speeding cars to be set up on a 50-km stretch of highway but, once again, on a trial basis. This technique has already been proven; another trial is unnecessary.

Regarding fines, in 1994, minister Kessar asked for traffic fines to be doubled. In September 1995, the government adopted a series of proposals by the Committee on Road Accidents, including increasing fines to NIS 2,000 on overloaded trucks. In June this year, the Road Safety Administration decided to stiffen penalties on drivers causing injury and death. One month later, the government approved a series of recommendations by the minister of transport, including raising fines for speeding to NIS 3000.

In August, Yitzhak Levy announced that he would shortly be signing a measure to increase fines for serious traffic violations (e.g., for running a red light the penalty would be NIS 1,000, up from NIS 270; for talking on hand-held phones, the penalty

would be increased from NIS 130 to NIS 750, etc.).

All this is very pretty on paper, but without the manpower and technology to enforce the laws, it is purely cosmetic.

AFTER every spectacular road crash hits the headlines, ministers throw up their hands in horror, there is a flurry of statements to the press, an icy hand grips every mother's heart. The public is calmed into thinking that something is being done when random crackdowns on highway offenders are put into effect. But does this change driving behavior? No, not for one minute. Death is something that happens to someone else. Israelis appear to be the most selfish, dangerous and inconsiderate drivers anywhere. But perhaps, in any place where the law can be broken with impunity, the result would be the same.

Driving behavior can be changed only if, as a first step, safe driving habits are imposed on road users by law enforcement. Good habits eventually become engrained into the psyche.

We have had enough studies, inquiries, experiments, and futile gestures while the slaughter on the roads continues unabated. Too many have died or been horribly injured at a tremendous cost to this country. Now it is time to put aside petty squabbles, party divisions, vested interests, hurt pride, and artificial financial barriers.

Severe fines during random crackdowns may only encourage offenders to take their case to court and overload the already-burdened system. Better to keep the fines at a level where drivers will pay by mail, but increase the probability of their being caught to 100 percent. Revenues from the fines should be plowed back into the Traffic Police Force and local authorities.

We have the manpower and the technological knowhow to dramatically reduce death and injury on our roads immediately. We must give the go-ahead on all fronts to enforce all traffic laws with a national traffic police force.

The writer is co-chairman of Metuma Road Safety.

POSTSCRIPTS

JOUNI JUSSILA is a sports champion. His wife is mere luggage.

Jussila and his tiny wife Tina romped through a grueling obstacle course in Finland to become the first wife-carrying champion of the world.

The Finnish laborer out-shipped a field of 32 pairs over the 235 meter course.

Cheered on by nearly 5,000 highly partisan spectators, he took home a mobile phone, a check for \$250, a loaf of rye bread and, most importantly, his wife's weight - 44 lbs - in beer.

The Rabelaisian contest is rooted in the legend of Rookainen the Robber, said in the 19th century to have tested aspiring members of his gang by forcing them to lug sacks of grain or live swine over a similar course.

It also purportedly stems from an even earlier tribal practice of wife-stealing - in honor of which, many contestants now take up the challenge with someone else's wife.

ASwedish TV journalist, who participated in the race, said: "The Finns have a bizarre sense of reality."

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S plane hit severe turbulence during a recent flight over Texas, sending people flying out of their seats, smashing dishes and splattering food on the walls.

Clinton checked on the 46 passengers and 26 crew members on board. "It was certainly a character builder, wasn't it?" Clinton said to reporters on the plane. "I was holding on, I was holding on," he added, laughing. The turbulence lifted people at the back of the plane up to a meter out of their seats. Secret service agents, who

had just been served red chile cheese enchiladas with beans, rice and salsa, appeared to suffer most from the turbulence, which sent food flying through their cabin and onto their clothes.

Many people on the plane were shaken up by the turbulence, which is unusual on Air Force One, but White House spokesman Mike McCurry appeared unruffled.

"I was sitting there with my drink and managed to catch it when it came back down," he said. "The last time I saw that was in a Bugs Bunny cartoon."

Cash Overflow

Fixing Politics, More or Less

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

FOR decades, the dominant view here has been that campaign finance reform meant imposing stricter laws and regulations governing who could give how much money and what ways the politicians could spend it.

Now, after an election in which the existing finance rules were side-stepped like puddles on the pavement, a new view is taking hold in some quarters.

It is that the only way to fix a system that everyone in politics agrees is broken is to scrap altogether the restrictions on donations and spending, to toughen disclosure requirements and to rely on voters to use that information to judge whether politicians are honest or corrupt.

Run, Don't Hide

Representative John T. Doolittle, a California Republican who is one of the leading proponents of this proposition in Congress, argues that the system now is like a sick patient. Imposing new limits on political money, as President Clinton and many in Congress want to do, would be like "treating the patient with ever stronger doses of the same medicine that hasn't worked," Mr. Doolittle says.

Larry J. Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia, agrees. His model is the stock market. Politicians, like public companies, should be required to reveal relevant data about their finances, he says, and voters, like stock traders, would have what they needed to look out for themselves.

The views of Mr. Doolittle and Mr. Sabato are unlikely to prevail anytime soon. Republican leaders in Congress, though contemptuous of the current law, have nonetheless steered clear of Mr. Doolittle's proposal. And most Democrats are hostile.

"The last thing we need," said Senator Russell D. Feingold of Wisconsin, "is a new system where politicians are owned by a very few powerful corporations or individuals or interests who lay down millions of dollars."

Among the scandals of Watergate were multimillion-dollar contributions from industries, an attaché case filled with cash and a secret safe deposit box containing \$100,000 from Howard Hughes. In the aftermath, the last meaningful campaign finance law was passed in 1974. Since then, Republicans and Democrats have been unable to agree among themselves, much less with each other, about how the law should be changed to prevent abuses. This year, the House of Representatives rejected bandily one proposal offered by Republicans and another

backed by Democrats. A measure in the Senate sponsored by John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Senator Feingold, a Democrat, was filibustered to death by the Republicans.

There is little reason to think things will be much different next year.

Still, the existing rules have proved to be so porous that the idea of abandoning them as unenforceable is provocative. It is comparable, say, to abolishing laws against possession of narcotics or lifting the speed limit on highways in Montana—maybe a good idea and maybe not, but not something to be dismissed out of hand.

Partly because of Supreme Court rulings and partly because politicians, contributors and even the voters have come to view violations of the campaign finance law as little more serious than parking tickets, the rules have been increasingly eroded in every election over the last 20 years.

Meantime, largely driven by the high cost of television advertising, campaigns have become ever more expensive. An estimated \$3 billion was spent on the Presidential and Congressional elections this year—nearly twice what was spent four years ago.

Corporations and labor unions, ostensibly prohibited from donating to candidates, found ways to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the political parties. The money was then spent almost as if it had been given directly to the candidates.

Advertising that is supposed to illuminate issues, protected by the Supreme Court as political speech, was virtually indistinguishable from the candidates' own commercials.

The news last week that an Arkansas businessman, Charles Yah Lin Trie, had raised more than \$600,000 for the trust fund that pays President Clinton's legal expenses in addition to large sums be raised for the Democratic Party was the latest example of the limitless ingenuity exercised this year in skirting a law that theoretically limits what an individual can donate to a candidate to \$1,000 for each election.

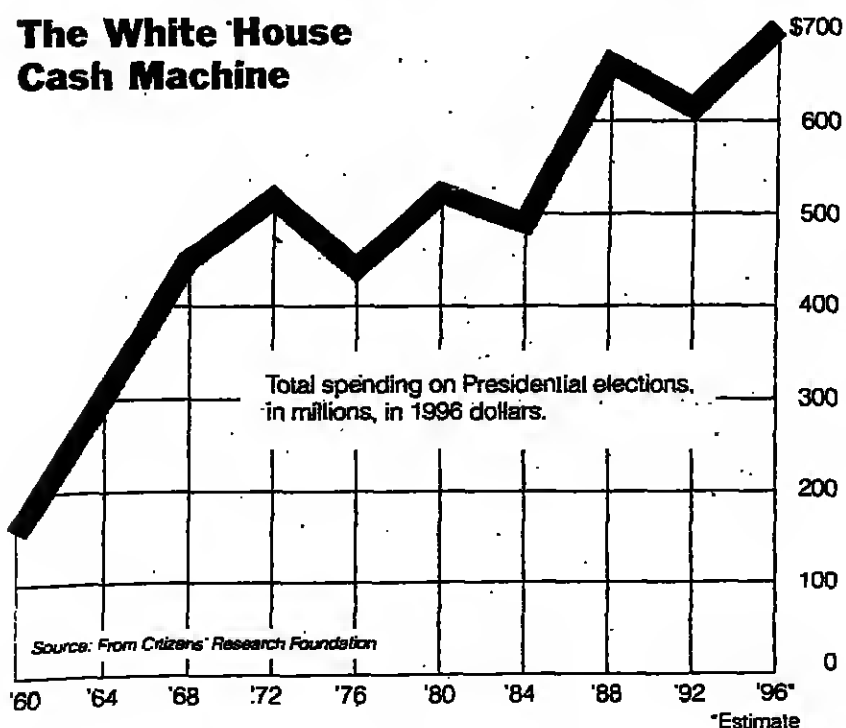
Too Many Rules

Mr. Clinton has endorsed the McCain-Feingold bill, which would, among other steps, outlaw unregulated contributions to political parties known as soft money and offer incentives like free or reduced-cost broadcast advertisements to candidates who voluntarily abide by spending limits.

Mr. Doolittle denounces legislation like this, which is intended to force candidates to raise money in small increments. Lawmakers, he says, already spend too much time on the

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The White House Cash Machine



Hutus who fled Rwanda's civil war, after leaders from their ethnic group lost, now find they must return. This family left Zaire.

End of an Ideal

The Shield for Exiles is Lowered

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

THE images, once again, are vivid. Long columns of Rwandans bearing small bundles of their worldly goods trudge on in the thousands, along narrow roads that lead them to an uncertain fate back home. Nobody knows what reprisals these Hutus face for genocide committed in their name two years ago. A first group, fleeing fighting in Zaire, returned to Rwanda weeks ago. Now Tanzania, another country where they sought refuge, no longer wants them either, and its policy is being enforced by troops with guns.

On the sidelines, someone representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stands by and notes cheerfully, "They're moving in the right direction."

And so another refugee crisis ends. But as the columns of Rwandans fade into history so does one of the great humanitarian principles enshrined in international relations since World War II: that the right to freedom from fear also covers exiles. Spelled

out, the doctrine declares that nobody should be forced to return to a homeland where he has reason to fear persecution.

While much is in dispute about why more than a million Hutus fled Rwanda and under what circumstances they remained in Tanzania and Zaire—just as there are questions about why Bosnians resist returning home from Germany or why Haitians risk a treacherous sea to reach American shores—some facts are facts.

Times Change

During the cold war, the right to political asylum was a rallying cry, and some of the great exoduses—from Vietnam, from Hungary, from Cuba—were applauded. Now that the war is over, political asylum has been stripped of its propagandist value. But mass migrations, within and across national borders, have only grown, and they now tax almost beyond endurance the world's capacity to respond, or sometimes even to care.

So the rights of people to decide when they feel endangered and to be shielded from forced return to a place they fled have rap-

idly eroded. That is what was so clear last week in the forcible repatriation of the Rwandans from Tanzania.

Not that the world as a whole ever quite lived up to its fine rhetoric on asylum. Nations, especially powerful nations, never really conceded the prerogative to make decisions on such questions when their own national interests were at stake.

Viewed through the prism of moral choices, it often seemed inexplicable why some people were let in and others kept out. Viewed through the prism of domestic politics—the Cuban vote in Florida or anti-immigrant xenophobia in France—the answer was obvious.

Even in the days of the Duvalier family dictatorship, for example, Americans detained Haitians in stark and uncomfortable conditions in Puerto Rican camps and in mainland prisons both to curb and deter unsolicited immigration, on the much-debated premise that most of the Haitians were economic migrants rather than true refugees. Vietnamese were sent back to Vietnam

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School Wars

New York City's 'worst disaster,' and the endless conflict over its legacy.

By John Kifner

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Death at an Early Age

The horror, and puzzle, of neonaticide.

By Jan Hoffman

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Forbidden Fruit

Warning: Warning labels work two ways.

By Lawrie Mifflin

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Poetic License

How films polish the image of historic figures.

By Karen De Witt

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The Nation

Don't Worry, Television. Film Has Been There.

By LAWRIE MIFFLIN

PARENTS complain about the killing and maiming they see on the screen. Religious groups also decry the violence, and add indignant denunciations of the sexual scenes being paraded in front of children. But producers warn that any curtailment of their creative vision will be the first step on the slippery slope to government censorship.

Sound familiar? No, it's not television. The year is 1968. The concern is movies. And the result was a rating system that most Americans now take for granted and the film industry treats as ho-hum.

The Motion Picture Association of America introduced its movie ratings code on Nov. 1, 1968. Last Thursday, the television industry introduced a new ratings code for all programs, on all channels, except for sports and news. There are intriguing parallels in the reactions to each system at its debut.

The original film industry code had four categories: G, M, R and X. Unlike the television code, however, the movie code was intended to have teeth: theater owners agreed to bar children under 17 from X-rated films (now called NC-17), and from R-rated films unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

In 1968, most parents applauded the new code, although some said that having the industry rate its own films was letting the fox guard the henhouse.

Almost all producers opposed the system, arguing that it would chill creativity, and that film-makers would feel compelled to churn out simpering family fare. Others forecast an explosion of X-rated films, believing "X" would be an alluring advertisement. And many said the ratings would simply be ignored.

But perhaps the most prophetic was a producer, Aubrey Scheck, who in 1968 likened the new rating system to Prohibition, when "kids who over thought of having a drink suddenly had to have one." He added, "Tell kids they can't see something and they'll break down doors to see it."

Indeed, to many parents' dismay, adolescents now regularly demand to see R-rated films, and younger children clamor to be taken to PG-13's. No 10-year-old worth his salt wants to be sighted at a G-rated film; those are virtually relegated to pre-schoolers.

Will the same thing happen in television? Will shows that get a TV-G rating (suitable for general audiences) be turn-offs for the 18-to-49-year-old age group coveted most by advertisers? Will producers feel free to make dramas raucier, comedies more vulgar, knowing they are protected from protest by the TV-14 rating?

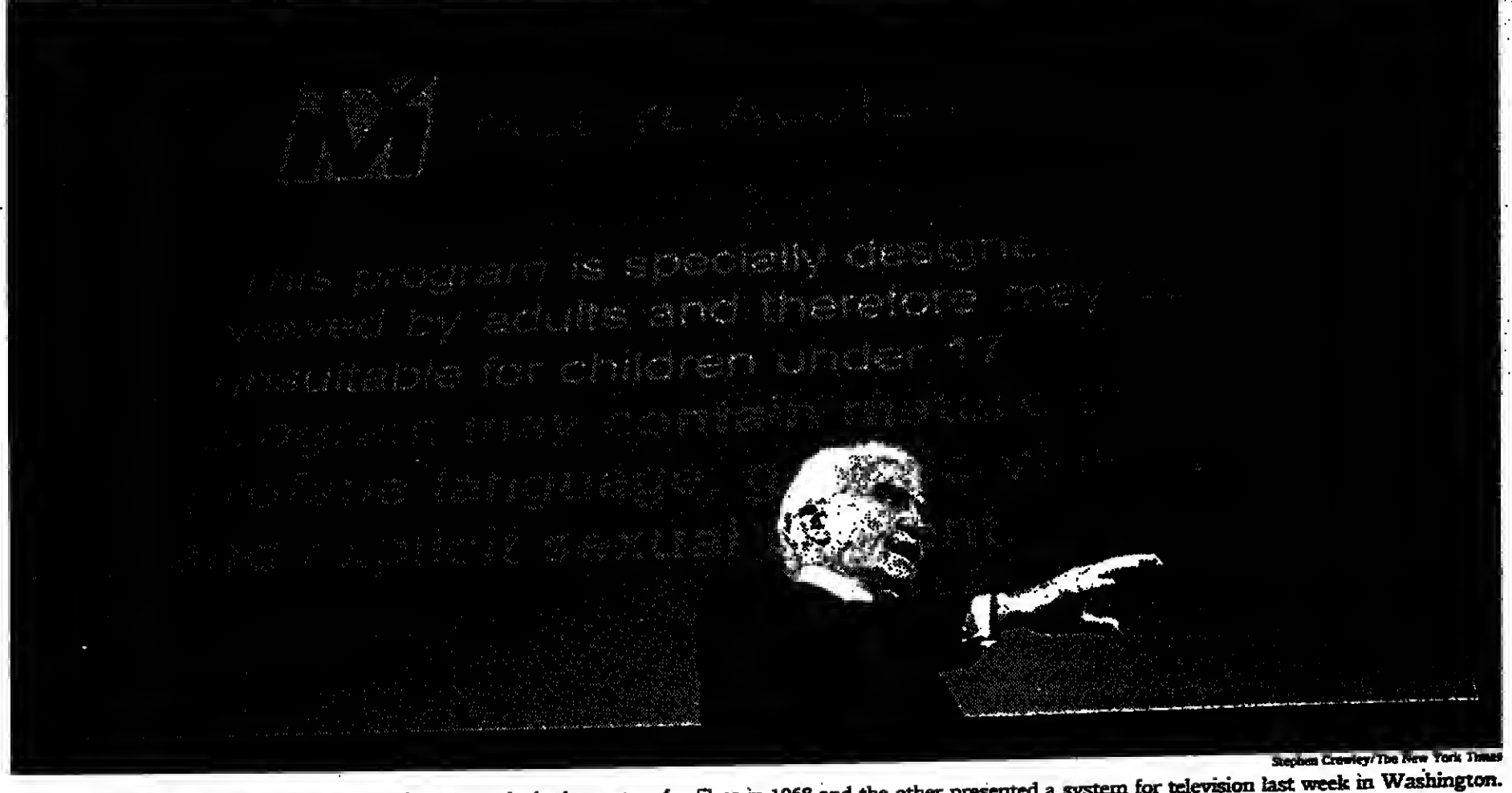
Forbidden Fruit

A small army of children's advocacy groups, educators and mental-health organizations has mobilized to oppose the new rating system. They believe parents should have more information about what content caused a program to get a cautionary label, but they also believe more detailed ratings will make children less likely to "break down the doors to see it."

Research by Joanne Cantor, a professor of communication arts at the University of Wisconsin who specializes in children's media issues, has found that the label "parental discretion advised" on a program made children, especially boys, more eager to see it, while a label reading "contains some violent content" did not.

"Just stating what's in a program would not make it nearly as desirable," she said, as the "forbidden-fruit" label that tells children their parents wouldn't want them to watch.

And advertisers? Many have their own rules about what programs their products may be associated with; adding a rating may not make much difference. According to James T. Hamilton, a professor of



Jack Valenti has headed two ratings committees; one devised a system for films in 1968 and the other presented a system for television last week in Washington.

public policy at Duke University who is writing a new book about television violence, when violent television movies carry a "viewer discretion advised" warning, the number of children watching drops by 15 percent, while teen and adult audiences are unaffected. Therefore violent films that carry a warning, he said, are more likely to have commercials only for products aimed at young adults, males and households without children. Companies whose "family image" is important will avoid films with such advisories, he found.

As it was with the film industry, fear of outside censorship is a major reason for the new television code. In 1968, censorship did exist in some communities — in the form of obscenity laws or local film-review boards that had the power to prohibit movie theaters from showing offending films.

Led by Jack Valenti, who in 1968 was president of the Motion Picture Association of America, the film industry grew convinced that initiating its own ratings system would stave off government regulation. This year, Mr. Valenti headed the television committee that devised the new code, which parallels the movie code.

The television equivalent of a movie theater owner refusing to sell tickets to children is still down the road, however. It is the V-chip, an electronic blocking device that will not be installed in new television sets until 1998, at the earliest. It will be up to each parent to decide whether to program the chip to block all shows other than the TV-Y and TV-G ones, or only those that are TV-M and TV-14, or any combination thereof.

But when a 13-year-old pleads that all her friends will be watching "Seinfeld," even though tonight's episode is a TV-14, will Mom have the heart to say no?

Safeguards or Snares? A Viewer's Guide.

The television industry's rating labels; the first two categories apply only to children's programs.

TV-Y, All Children

This program is designed to be appropriate for all children. Whether animated or live-action, the themes and elements in this program are specifically designed for a very young audience, including children from ages 2-6. This program is not expected to frighten younger children.

TV-Y7, Directed to Older Children

This program is designed for children age 7 and above. It may be more appropriate for children who have acquired the developmental skills needed to distinguish between make-believe and reality. Themes and elements in this program may include mild physical or comedic violence, or may frighten children under the age of 7. Therefore, parents may wish to consider the suitability of this program for their very young children.

TV-G, General Audience

Most parents would find this program suitable for all ages. Although this rating does not signify a program designed specifically for children, most parents may let younger children watch this program unattended. It contains little or no violence, no strong language and little or no sexual dialogue or situations.

TV-PG, Parental Guidance Suggested

This program may contain some material that some parents would find unsuitable for younger children. Many parents may want to watch it with their younger children. The theme itself may call for parental guidance. The program may contain infrequent coarse language, limited violence and some suggestive sexual dialogue and situations.

TV-14, Parents Strongly Cautioned

This program may contain some material that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14 years of age. Parents are strongly urged to exercise greater care in monitoring this program and are cautioned against letting children under the age of 14 watch unattended. This program may contain sophisticated themes, sexual content, strong language and more intense violence.

TV-18, Mature Audience Only

This program is specifically designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17. This program may contain mature themes, profane language, graphic violence and explicit sexual content.

The Charge Is Murder

An Infant's Death, an Ancient 'Why?'

By JAN HOFFMAN

DISCORDANT images from a Wilmington, Del., courthouse last week: Two chipmunk-cheeked college freshmen, blushing, tearful, whispering as they sit at the defense table. After the hearing, their fingertips brush in farewell.

Then both are returned to prison, having just pled not guilty to the intentional or reckless murder of their newborn son, found abandoned last month in a motel Dumpster.

Their lawyers say the baby was brain-damaged and did not survive delivery. But if, as prosecutors say, the infant was born healthy and died from a fractured skull and from being shaken, the couple committed a stark act of incomprehensible immorality. Yet it would be only the latest example of neonaticide, or the killing of an infant within the first 24 hours of life.

Many early civilizations, including the Greeks, left ailing babies on hillsides to die. Eskimos would kill one of most sets of twins; the Chinese would sacrifice an infant daughter to save the cost of a dowry.

As ancient and as much-debated as neonaticide itself is the question of how society should view it. Throughout history, many cultures have unhesitatingly sanctioned the act as a response to severe social, emotional or economic stress.

The English grappled with the out-uncommon killings of newborns by poor mothers and unmarried servant girls. In the early 19th century, according to one scholar, juries were reluctant to send such women to the gallows: "Those juries knew that at or about the time of birth, dogs, cats and sows sometimes kill their own young. They were not prepared to extend less compassion and concern to a mentally sick woman than they would to an excitable bitch."

Since 1922, England has had an infanticide law providing that mothers who kill babies up to a year old should face charges of manslaughter, not murder. Such women are given psychiatric treatment and rarely serve prison terms.

American law is not so forgiving. It does not carve out lenient exceptions in its homicide statutes for certain victims, "regardless of whether they are one second or 50 years old," said Joshua Dressler, a professor at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

While the facts of neonaticides are often similar, a prosecutor has great discretion over



Amy Grossberg, Brian Peterson Jr., before.

how to charge each case. If Brian C. Peterson, Jr. or Amy S. Grossberg, whose son was found in a trash container outside the Comfort Inn in Newark, Del., are convicted of first-degree murder — lesser charges were not included in the indictment — they could face life in prison or the death penalty. But in the case of a New York college student whose conviction for killing her newborn was upheld last month, prosecutors charged her with manslaughter, a jury found her guilty of the lesser charge of criminal negligent homicide and she was sentenced to one-and-a-third to four years.

Young and Isolated

Tracking this crime is difficult, because many corpses are never discovered. Using Justice Department statistics, one estimate puts the number at about 250 a year. Dr. Phillip J. Resnick, a professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve medical school, who coined the term "neonaticide" in 1970, said that the number is on the decline because of the availability of birth control and abortion.

Typically, neonaticides are committed by young, isolated women in severe denial of their pregnancy. If they have irregular menstrual periods, they may not realize that they are pregnant soon enough to have an abortion. Doctors say that small, fit women may not

develop a belly; one mother said she had seen her teen-age daughter naked the night before she gave birth and had not noticed anything remarkable about the girl's figure.

Profoundly unprepared, the women find themselves giving birth in department store bathrooms and college dorms. The trauma of delivery, followed by the crying of a newborn, crashes through the thickest walls of denial. Women try to stifle the wails by strangling the baby, stuffing tissues down its throat, drowning it in the toilet. Then they throw the tiny corpses in trash compactors, leave them in dresser drawers, even toss them out windows.

Such acts are shocking to a society that cherishes the concept of bonding that begins in utero and prompt many to see neonaticide as the most inhuman of murders. But Dr. Resnick said a woman who desperately does not want to be pregnant can mentally foreclose attachment. "This is a foreign body going through her, not a baby, and the bonding never occurs," he said. "She doesn't think of it as her child but as an object to get rid of."

Some psychiatrists believe many of these women are legally sane and should be charged with some offense, since a mother's attempt to hide the body shows that she knew what she did was wrong. Powerful postpartum depression brought on by riotous hormones can be the basis of an insanity defense but it does not set in until days later, some doctors say.

But Dr. Margaret Spinelli, the director of a maternal mental health program at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, said that women she has treated describe a corrosive breakdown. "They're dissociated from pregnancy, intercourse and reproduction," she said. "Then they deliver and they panic because they're not sure what's happening. It's like driving down a highway but not remembering how they got there: they're charged with killing their child and they don't even have their memories as their own defense."

The case of Ms. Grossberg and Mr. Peterson has confounded many experts not because of their privileged background but because the act is almost always done by a woman alone.

Rarer still is an indictment for capital murder for such a crime. Dr. Resnick questioned whether this is appropriate for two people without prior records. Though he takes a stern view of neonaticide, he added, "they're being charged as if they did something worse than robbing a 7-Eleven store and shooting the clerk."

Fixing Politics, More or Less

Continued From Page 1

money chase. Good people are discouraged from running for office, he says, because they fear they cannot raise enough money, and challengers can rarely collect enough to knock off incumbents. Toughening the regulations, Mr. Doolittle says, would simply make things worse.

Escalating Donations

Many politicians and other experts in the field are disdainful of Mr. Doolittle's arguments. Removing the limits on contributions would not free politicians from the tedium of money-raising but would require them to chase ever larger donations in a competition like an arms race.

What worries these skeptics most is what might be called the Medici factor. They are afraid that a wealthy family or a well-financed interest group would be able to gain long-term political control over a congressional district or even a state the way the Medici family dominated the political, religious and cultural affairs of Florence during the Italian Renaissance. These skeptics envision someone like Ross Perot, who is unable himself to get elected, becoming the patron of politicians who agree with him politically.

"I don't think we need candidates who are dependent on patrons," Senator Feingold said. Fred Wertheimer, the former president of Common Cause who has spent his career working for stricter campaign finance laws, said, "The idea of throwing the American Government up to the highest bidders is totally alien to the democratic process."

Those who oppose Mr. Doolittle's proposition also question whether a system could ever be devised that would make the disclosure of candidates' finances sufficiently comprehensive, accessible and timely to allow voters to make sound judgments. Campaign contributions are al-

ready filed with the Federal Election Commission and become public information under the existing law. But the material is so voluminous that it cannot be quickly digested. Vital information is often not available until after an election. The commission never discovers outrages — and the press only occasionally does — before the elections are over and the winners are safely ensconced in office.

Congressman Doolittle believes things would improve if candidates filed their financial data electronically and the commission's computers were upgraded. They may be right. But Republicans in Congress have

Campaign finance rules failed. Now, new rules or none?

been cutting, not increasing, the commission's budget. And Mr. Doolittle insists that the last thing he wants is an election police.

Professor Sabato says disclosure rules should be enforced better so that politicians fear the Federal Election Commission the way executives on Wall Street are afraid of the Securities and Exchange Commission. "The interests," Professor Sabato said, "will spend whatever they want to spend, whether they are straightforward or use legal artifices. The elected official always knows who has given and how much and in what ways."

"The challenge," he continued, "is to get the system to inform so that the public will know as much as the interests and the officials know." And what of the danger of a 21st-century Medici? "The American people," he said, "are sensible enough to recognize the dangers of having such a nation."

The Nation



Albert Shanker acknowledges teachers' cheers outside New York's City Hall during the 1968 Ocean Hill-Brownsville struggle, which still resonates today.

Ocean Hill-Brownsville, '68

Echoes of a New York Waterloo

By JOHN KIFNER

FOR American cities and education, it seemed the worst of times. Pickets and the police ringed schools as onetime allies in the civil rights struggle shrieked accusations of racism and anti-Semitism at each other. The 1968 battle over school decentralization in an obscure Brooklyn district called Ocean Hill-Brownsville ripped apart New York City as nothing has before or since.

Its impact on the city and beyond is hard to overstate. It played an early role in the deterioration of relations between blacks and Jews. New York liberals, previously rock-solid in their advocacy of social causes, were split into warring camps. Albert Shanker rose in stature from local union chief to hero to some and anti-hero to others, becoming a national educational leader and household name who even made his way into a Woody Allen movie.

And far from being a catharsis to cleanse New York City education of its poisons, Ocean Hill-Brownsville came to stand as a symbol of halfhearted good intentions gone awry — an effort to transfer power from a hidebound bureaucracy back to the people that turned into a political and educational disaster.

Last week New York's state legislature moved to undo its legacy, overhaul-

Decades later, New York moves to undo a legacy crippling its schools.

ing the school decentralization law enacted in 1969 in the aftermath of the school unrest. The new measure gives the power to hire and fire supervisors back to the city schools' central authority, the chancellor. Plagued by corruption on local school boards and still struggling, the nation's largest school system has yet to exorcise the ghosts of Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

"The New York teacher's strike of 1968 seems to me the worst disaster my native city has experienced in my lifetime," Martin Mayer wrote soon after the events in a book chronicling the fight. Woody Allen put a wry reference to the events in his 1973 movie "Sleeper," when his character awakens far in the future and is told his era vanished in a war.

"According to history," his doctor explains, "over a hundred years ago a man named Albert Shanker got hold of a nuclear warhead."

An Experiment

More than a few out-of-town moviegoers may have been mystified, but New Yorkers needed no further explanation. Mr. Shanker was one of the central figures in a fight with few if any heroes — a tough teachers' union leader who shut down city schools in three bitter strikes, enraging black advocates of local control and defying City Hall and much of the political establishment.

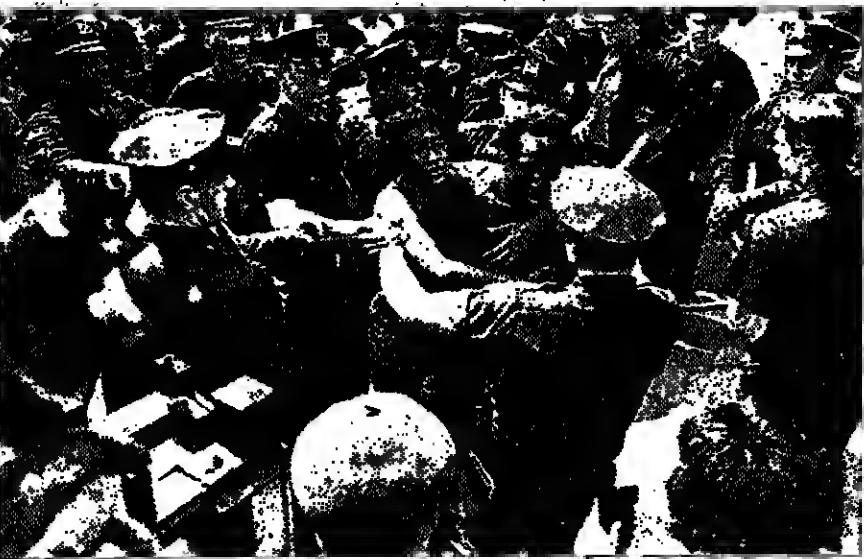
If there was one thing virtually all the participants could agree on at the begin-



Striking teachers heckle non-striking Ocean Hill-Brownsville teachers.



Children await assignments to improvised classes during the 1968 unrest.



Officers clear away Ocean Hill-Brownsville protesters.

ning, it was that schools in poor, black neighborhoods were doing a terrible job. The all-powerful central Board of Education's very address — 110 Livingston Street — had become a synonym for a vast, entrenched bureaucracy, the target of mounting black protests.

At first, when the Ford Foundation provided a grant for an experimental school district run by a local board, black parents and the United Federation of Teachers seemed allies; in 1965, Mr. Shanker himself had joined the civil rights marchers in Selma, Ala.

Together they pressed the recalcitrant central Board of Education for changes. But while the local school board thought it would be running the schools, the city board said it would recognize only community "involvement" and provided no extra money.

Rhody McCoy, a veteran black principal hired as school administrator, says he warned that the experiment was "fraud" and that people in the district were being "used and manipulated."

"These poor parents were supposed to take over this terrible school district and

make it a shining example with no help," he said.

The teacher's union turned into an enemy when the local board and Mr. McCoy tried to assert their authority by transferring out 19 faculty members they deemed hostile or incompetent. Mr. Shanker's union called the transfers dismissals without due process.

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism surfaced when a black teacher, Leslie Campbell, read a girl's poem that included a slur toward Jews. (The school system's underpaid staff was 90 percent white and heavily Jewish.) The United Federation of Teachers reproduced and distributed anti-Semitic leaflets it said were circulating in the schools.

"The whole alliance of liberals, blacks and Jews broke apart on this issue," Mr. Shanker remembered. "It was a turning point in that way. It was a fact in the late 1960's that the African-American community was moving from the idea of integration toward the idea of black power, toward organizations like Rap Brown or the Black Panthers. Was it civil rights for minorities or civil rights for everybody?"

Each side became more entrenched and more vitriolic. Arguments raged through the pages of *The Village Voice* and *The New York Review of Books*. Ira Glasser, head of the New York Civil

'The whole alliance of liberals, blacks and Jews broke apart on this issue.'

Liberties Union, the product of generations of labor organizers, blamed the teachers' union for sabotaging the experiment, and endured screams of "scab" as he walked his son through a picket line to school. Union teachers were menaced when they tried to return to school. Eventually the state took over the district.

Later, when the state legislature met in 1969 to consider a citywide decentralization plan, the teacher's union was in Albany in force.

"It was horrible, a very highly charged environment," recalled Jerome Kretzmer, then a liberal Assemblyman from the Upper West Side who backed a bill originally calling for strong community control that eventually was modified to a bill acceptable to the union, including strong job protections.

"The bill that passed was Shanker's bill, not ours," Mr. Glasser recalled. "Real decentralization threatened two major interests, the Board and its bureaucracy, which was unalterably opposed to change, and the power of the union. It was really a power struggle in which the black kids were sacrificed."

"I have always blamed Shanker for whipping up the anti-Semitism issue," he added. "I think the union manufactured much of it. It caused a rupture between blacks and Jews that hasn't healed and I think it's unforgivable."

In the end, said Mr. McCoy, the Ocean Hill-Brownsville struggle "had nothing to do with education; it was all politics and money."

Who's Minding the Schools?

By PETER APPLEBOME

WHEN the New York State Legislature sharply curtailed New York City's school decentralization last week, it marked the end of one of the nation's most significant education experiments. The long, anguished experience in New York, and an equally dramatic experience in Chicago, highlight a long conflict: should children's education be controlled by communities and individual schools or by a main office?

Mixed — and sometimes abysmal — records in terms of student achievement and local management in both cities eventually led to conclusions that there could be no effective local control of schools, without a powerful, central monitor.

But local control isn't dead. The idea that parents and teachers who deal with students know more than politicians or bureaucrats remains strong.

There is a sense — almost a gospel at many schools of education — that schools should be managed as close to the ground as possible, that curriculums should be tailored to fit individual communities.

But this gospel can butt heads with a growing belief that new standards and assessments are needed. Political and business leaders are increasingly impatient with the nation's education progress and much more interested in a single standard that all students must meet and a single office responsible for getting them there.

The Big Disconnect

"Right now there's a big disconnect between the rhetoric of local control and school-based management and what people in power — basically politicians and business people — want in terms of standards-based reforms," said Ed Miller, a former editor of the *Harvard Education Letter* who is now writing a book about education. "There's a fundamental contradiction there, and I don't see anyone dealing with it."

The new New York City plan gives the schools chancellor enormous power to hire the people who run the city's schools, taking it from the 32 community school boards, many of which had become patronage mills for local politicians. Some board members stole school equipment, protected principals who were drug users, hired relatives and demanded bribes for appointments.

Under the new plan, the chancellor has the power to remove a superintendent, a board member, or an entire board in districts that have performed poorly over a period of years on standardized tests and other measures of educational performance.

Chicago had a very similar experience. In December 1983, the Illinois State Legislature approved a plan to let elected, parent-dominated councils have power to approve educational plans for each school, spend money as

A debate endures over whether education should be controlled by communities and individual schools or by the main office.

they saw fit and select principals. But results varied enormously from school to school. Some of the same types of corruption and patronage rampant in New York surfaced in Chicago.

In May 1995, the Legislature passed a second education act, this one giving Chicago's mayor sweeping new powers over the schools. The mayor chose a chief executive officer, Paul Vallas, to run the schools. Local school councils retained their powers, but Mr. Vallas could veto contract renewals for principals. While some reform advocates chafe at the degree of his control, a more common view is that this structure has both local initiative and city-wide oversight.

"If someone hires their in-laws to fill the Coke machines for \$20,000 of discretionary money, you need someone who can say, 'That's not right,'" said Thomas Reece, president of the Chicago Teachers Union. "You need some kind of centralized control."

Missing Link

Although the New York State Assembly passed the school overhaul 127 to 14, and the Senate passed it 47 to 9, most of the 23 lawmakers who voted against it represent black and Hispanic districts, where there is a persistent suspicion of central-office control.

Minority parents have long been concerned that schools mainly teach the achievements of white men. Local control of schools was supposed to guarantee that the community's ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds would be considered. But with test scores slipping, there has been political pressure to make sure that the schools were spending more time on fundamentals and less on alternate histories.

To many educators, the experiences in New York and Chicago in no way discredit the notion of local control, particularly of instruction. Frank Smith, a professor of education administration at Teachers College of Columbia University, said computer records now make it far easier to monitor operational and spending matters at a district level. And he said it would be a mistake to assume from New York and Chicago that too much decentralization is a bad thing.

"I don't think they went too far in New York; I think they didn't go far enough," Professor Smith said. "What they did in effect was to put in mini-bureaucracies. They took the old system and made 32 little systems instead of truly decentralizing at the school level."

The most significant elements of the new legislation, he said, were the provisions indicating that a lot of power would remain at the school level — in effect moving toward a notion similar to charter schools. That could allow the Chancellor's office to monitor financial and operational issues to weed out corruption or waste, while giving schools considerable autonomy on instruction.

Still, the most difficult part of the equation may be measuring educational quality, not just in terms of test scores, but in terms of broader notions of education.

"The missing link in a lot of this seems to be the evaluation part," he said. "We have fiscal monitoring procedures or personnel procedures. But in terms of careful ways to monitor how schools are performing, well, that part's still generally missing."

Ideas & Trends

The Ungreening of the White House Staff

By TODD S. PURDUM

FOUR years ago, the rap on Bill Clinton's staff was that it was too young, too empty of experience and too full of itself to be much use in running the nerve center of American politics. "Singlehandedly, I bear some blame for that," George Stephanopoulos, the adviser whose youthful mop-haired countenance became the public face of the White House early on, said last week. "It just became too easy to caricature."

Mr. Clinton's aides were never quite as green as

The President's second-term team looks very different. It is.

their collective reputation would have it, but they had their shortcomings, took their knocks and then some. Now, as Mr. Clinton's second-term staff takes shape, one thing is clear: It is full of people with plenty of experience as aides to a President — this President.

From the new chief of staff, Erskine B. Bowles (who spent 16 months as a deputy chief of staff under Leon E. Panetta), to both of his new deputies and on through virtually every senior post, the top guns of the second term started out as pop guns in the first. They are still young, with an average age of barely 40. But they are marked less by any stamp of ideology or personality than they are by tempered, tested allegiance to the boss.

Mr. Bowles, a soft-spoken multimillionaire businessman from North Carolina who made friends with Mr. Clinton as a fund-raiser for his 1992 campaign and then as head of the Small Business Administration, said he wanted "a team with sharp minds, but not sharp

elbows." But he has already used his own elbows, having insisted on the not-quite-bloodless departure of Mr. Panetta's two deputies, Harold M. Ickes and Evelyn Lieberman, as a condition of taking the job.

Mr. Panetta came aboard in 1994 after Mr. Clinton decided that his old childhood friend, Thomas F. McLarty, an energy company executive, ruled with too soft a hand. Mr. Bowles's own hallmark is organization. In 1995, he helped Mr. Clinton carve out more time to think and read and write in the wake of the Republican takeover of Congress, and helped Mr. Panetta tighten access to the Oval Office. There is ample precedent for such skills being prized in second terms.

"There is certainly a move to place people in power who are less ideological and much more pragmatic," said Carl Sferrazza Anthony, a Washington historian and writer. "With a definitive amount of sand left in the hourglass, Presidents tend to be much more pragmatic in wanting to get the boat moving."

As an example, Mr. Anthony cited Ronald Reagan's second-term shift away from hawkish foreign policy advisers like Alexander M. Haig Jr. toward pragmatists like Lawrence S. Eagleburger, who encouraged Mr. Reagan's desire to burnish his legacy by making peace with the Soviet Union.

Certainly, pragmatists have risen on the new team. Mr. Ickes and Mr. Stephanopoulos, often seen as the twin pincers on Mr. Clinton's streak of liberal conscience, will both be gone, replaced in part by Rahm Emanuel, the brass-tacks tactician who encouraged Mr. Clinton's moves to the center on crime and welfare policy.

The Liberal Presence

But at least part of the Ickes-Stephanopoulos portfolio — outreach to Congress, Democratic constituency groups and the press — will be handled by Douglas Sosnik, who has been political director and will now take the higher rank of counselor to the President. A former aide to Senator Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut with solid liberal credentials of his own, Mr. Sosnik is also known as the aide who beat the President at late-night games of hearts on Air Force One.

Stephen Hess, who was a speechwriter in the Eisen-



A new lineup: Sylvia Mathews, deputy chief of staff; Rahm Emanuel; Douglas Sosnik; Victoria Radd, deputy communications director, and Jim Steinberg and Brig. Gen. Donald Kerrick of the National Security Council.

hower Administration and has watched White House staffs come and go as a scholar at the Brookings Institution, said changes were healthy. "They made a lot of mistakes on our time, if you will," he said of the first-term staff. "Now they're veterans and they've sorted it out a bit, and they'll probably make other mistakes."

But Mr. Hess added: "Beginnings and endings are different. In the beginning, there's an accent, and a need for creativity. You're producing policies, in a sense, from scratch. Eventually you need people to implement it, who know how to play the bureaucratic game."

In that sense, the verdict is so far mixed on Mr. Bowles and his team. On paper, they do not quite match

the collective Washington experience of Mr. Panetta and his deputies, and Mr. Bowles is almost painfully shy of public discourse, known to agonize for hours in advance of speeches. Still, at a news conference last week he proved a deft match for Helen Thomas of United Press International, the klaxon-voiced dean of the White House press corps, who demanded to know why the chief of staff needed his own chief of staff.

"You know," Mr. Bowles said, speaking perhaps as much for Mr. Clinton as himself, "that's what every good executive does: they surround themselves with enough good people that they do the work and the work gets done on time and done right."

Don't Cry for Them

Once Villainous, Now Virtuous

By KAREN DE WITT



In "Evita," Madonna has polished Eva Perón's fashion image.

"Evita," the latest movie to make a fashion statement, arrives on Christmas Day. Madonna, that faux blond of so-so flicks, plays Eva Duarte Perón, a peplum-wearing, wasp-waisted Lady Bountiful to Argentina's poor.

In a spinoff of packaging, Bloomingdale's opened an Evita boutique this month. "It's a big success," said Kalman Rutenstein, vice president for fashion at Bloomingdale's. "We've reordered three times."

The reordering is not limited to Evita clothing. The woman herself has been retrofitted as a material girl with a penchant for charity, who only dons her Diors to service to the underclass.

The real Eva Perón was something else. The poor girl who brokered her charms up the ranks to become the wife of Argentina's dictator, Juan Perón, was as corrupt, vengeful and power hungry as her husband.

One revisionist-historical figure a year should be enough. But Hollywood has a spate of shape-shifting this season.

Outright villains are doing a 180-degree turn to become heroes. In "The English Patient," Ralph Fiennes does Count Laszlo Almásy as a romantic desert explorer, spying for the Germans during World War II only so he can be reunited with his beloved, the wife of another man. The real Hungarian count, a homosexual, was an opportunist who spied for whomever suited him.

In "Michael Collins," Liam Neeson turns terrorism into patriotism, sugar-coated with the love of a woman.

And then there is Larry Flynt, the pornographer who once diapered himself in the American flag, in Milos Forman's "The People vs. Larry Flynt." A millionaire smut merchant is transformed from scatological exhibitionist to self-styled defender of the Constitution.



Woody Harrelson plays Larry Flynt defending the Constitution.

'Michael Collins' turns terrorism into patriotism.

Sociologists, social critics, philosophers and film makers say that what is happening is all part of the American cult of individualism — occasionally confused, partly shamanistic in its appeal, ultimately a safety valve for our frustrations and limitations.

"Americans have this tremendous faith in the ability to repackage themselves," said David Ruth, a history professor at Penn State University. "That's the great American gift to the 20th century. And one of the ways they convince themselves that they have this ability is to repackage historical figures."

Evita, Bonnie and Clyde, Al Capone. All share that strong sense of individualism that feeds the optional myth that people can make themselves into anything they want, said Professor Ruth, who wrote "Inventing the Public Enemy" (University of Chicago Press), which examines the public's fascination with Capone.

"Evita was a second-rate radio actress and she transformed herself into one of the

"History has to be faithful to the facts. Drama has to be faithful to the spirit of the facts."

most powerful people in Latin America," he said. "Vicariouly, we can enjoy the individual potency through her myth. We sift the messy details of these villains' lives, and more and more, some of them drop away and some stay with us. It's the favorable ones that stay with us. We like our history to be a happy history. It's comforting to have stories with happy endings."

Only Half Bad

Mr. Forman, who directed the movie about the publisher of Hustler magazine, said that what is in play in his particular take on Larry Flynt is ambiguity. "We like to label people and suddenly when something about a character doesn't conform with the label we get somehow irritated," he said. "Once you can put a label on somebody, you can put it in a drawer and you are done with it. But when you discover a character has different aspects, that someone you thought was 100 percent bad turns out to be only 50 percent bad, then it becomes very puzzling and we want to argue about it."

Stanley Crouch, the music and social critic, said that Americans have problems with complex humans. The remaking of villains into heroes comes from an American confusion about rebels, he said.

"There is a very substantial history in America of people who rebelled against the law and were right," he said. "It isn't something that's just romantic. That is what the 13 colonies were all about. But we get confused about the difference between heroic individuality, which makes possible a greater social freedom, and anarchic individuality, which is ruthless, narcissistic, amoral and dangerous."

Movies tend to blur, if not transmogrify, history. "You don't have to be faithful to the facts," Mr. Forman said. "History has to be faithful to the facts. Drama has to be faithful to the spirit of the facts."

Ted Cohen, a philosophy professor at the University of Chicago, says that faithfulness to facts is not necessarily called for in art.

"What's going to happen if you present Hitler as a great song-and-dance man as Mel Brooks did in 'The Producers'?" Mr. Cohen said. "There's no bottom-line answer. This is a case-by-case question." Ultimately, it doesn't matter much what moviegoers come away thinking, he said.

"The big cost is in thinking that it doesn't matter at all," Mr. Cohen said. "It does matter. The question is how much does it matter. If you thought a movie was going to be the only way that most people were going to have any views about history, then we would have to worry about the distortions. If, for example, our only access to Malcolm X was Spike Lee's movie, that would be an issue. But there are other sources. There is history, and history isn't just any old story you want to believe."



The real Eva Perón was a vengeful social climber.



Larry Flynt made millions from explicit pornography.



The real Count Laszlo Almásy was an opportunistic spy.

Exiles' Plight

Continued From Page 1

when no other country would accept them. This year, the French police have been rounding up Africans for expulsion. In recent weeks, Germany has begun deporting Bosnians to Sarajevo.

But the epochal moment may have come in 1991, when Turkey closed its borders to Kurds fleeing persecution by Saddam Hussein. Governments and international organizations, led by the Turks' American allies, responded with a makeshift plan to protect and assist the Kurds on their own territory in defiance of their own Government, rather than give them a more secure shield of refugee status in exile. One expert called it "the beginning of the end of classical asylum."

Traditional reasons for asylum are also changing and broadening. It is no longer just a matter of fleeing the K.G.B. or Argentina's generals. The United States has admitted men who fear persecution because they are gay and women who are struggling to evade genital mutilation. Congress has written amendments to immigration legislation that would restore the right to asylum (though for a limited number) for Chinese forced to undergo abortions or sterilizations.

Many believe a natural and welcome evolution is taking place in the way the world looks at refugees — more practically and less legalistically. Mark Malloch Brown, a World Bank vice president, told a conference sponsored by the International Peace Academy last summer that the U.N. refugee agency, for one, was trapped far too long in an overly narrow definition of its role. But others disagree strongly.

"This is the end of an era in refugee protection," said Arthur C. Helton, director of migration programs at the Open Society Institute in New York. "The U.N.H.C.R. and the nations that are its principal donors have sought to transform the agency from a guardian of refugee protection into the humanitarian branch of the United Nations. But who will now be the guardian of refugees' human rights?"

The Bosnia Syndrome

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a unique organization among international agencies, was established in 1951, with memories of Nazism still fresh and Stalin's Soviet bloc looming over Europe. Moscow opposed its creation and had no contact with the organization until the 1970's. For those who backed the founding, though, the world was filled with good places and bad, even evil, places.

"So it was obvious for those who founded the organization to write into the refugee convention as its key point, the fundamental, cardinal principle of refugee protection: that nobody should be forced back," said Soren Jessen-Petersen, who now heads the U.N. refugee office in New York after having served as a special representative in Bosnia.

It was in Bosnia that the High Commissioner's office took a critical step toward the transformation Mr. Helton described. Faced with the enormous suffering of people displaced within their own country — who until then would not have been considered refugees — the High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, took on the problems of getting aid to them. However noble the motive, the agency was accused of assisting ethnic cleansing or supporting populations bent on endless war.

"Times have changed," Mr. Jessen-Petersen said. "Over the last six or seven years, people are no longer crossing borders in the same way. Now we are basically dealing with refugees from internal conflicts."

"At the same time, there has been a lot of pressure recently on the whole concept of asylum," he added. "Poorer countries are now saying, 'Why should we provide asylum to hundreds of thousands if the richer part of the world cannot even receive 100?'"

The situation that results disturbs Robert P. DeVecchi, president of the International Rescue Committee, which was founded to help escapees from Nazi persecution. Its executive committee met on Thursday to be briefed on the current crisis zone in Africa, an area known as the Great Lakes region.

"I see this period right now as a kind of watershed," he said. "There is a certain loss of innocence that high relief."

ECONOMY

Rubbermaid Awakens, Market Yawns

By CLAUDIA H. DEUTSCH

TWO months ago, Rubbermaid Inc. held a product fair here in its headquarters town. It displayed storage bins, kitchen items and other plastic housewares, each with a label that detailed what it cost to make and what it usually sold for.

Sounds like a run-of-the-mill corporate event, except for two things: it was open only to Rubbermaid employees and the products were not Rubbermaid's, but its competitors'. Negotiations with the United Steelworkers of America were nearing, and Rubbermaid wanted its workers to see what they were up against.

The plan worked. Not long after, the union agreed to all kinds of new productivity measures. "We realized we had to be more competitive," said Craig T. Hensley, a Steelworkers official.

Even more surprising, Rubbermaid executives realize that, too. "Our success had its own form of seductiveness," said Wolfgang R. Schmitt, who joined Rubbermaid in 1986 and has been its chief executive since 1993. "It made us pretty self-satisfied, and not inclined to ask ourselves tough questions."

But now, Rubbermaid is acknowledging that its strong brand name and huge market share can no longer compensate for antiquated manufacturing and distribution methods, strained retailer relationships and inflated prices. For the first time in its 76-year history, it is conceding that if it cannot deliver superlative quality at low prices, its competitors will.

"Rubbermaid is finally recognizing they can't sell a laundry basket for \$7 if there's one that looks as good for half the price," said Eric Bosshard, an analyst with the Midwest Research-Maxxis Group.

But the light dawned too late to stave off a reversal of fortune. Last year, Rubbermaid broke a 57-quarter run of earnings gains. Sales are flat this year, a crushing setback for a company whose culture worships double-digit growth. Its profits are weak and its stock price, which peaked at \$38 in 1991, languishes in the mid-\$20's. The cost of its main raw material, resin, has nearly tripled in the last two years. And competitors are finally getting aggressive.

Yet, if 1996 has not turned out to be the year of the turnaround for Rubbermaid, it is at least a turning point. The company has improved worker productivity with a new system of bonuses, smoothed the ruffled feathers of its biggest customers, slashed costs, started innovative product-development programs and increased its presence overseas. It has even mixed and matched its products, sticking wheels made for a toy car onto an ice chest.

Some analysts think all the upheaval will yield higher sales and

profits next year; others think such results will take longer. But Wall Street's bearish mood on the stock is almost universal. Several analysts have downgraded their ratings from buys to holds recently. The consensus on the Street is that, with its shares still trading at about 22 times earnings, Rubbermaid will need more than a modest recovery to reposition itself as an undervalued stock.

For example, Heather Ray, an analyst with Prudential Securities, predicts a rebound next year in sales, to \$2.8 billion from a projected \$2.4 billion this year, and in operating income, to \$329 million from a projected \$285 million. Yet she declines to elevate Rubbermaid above a hold. "Rubbermaid's costs will be down and its income will be up next year, but I still can't really recommend that people buy the stock," she said.

Still, no one suggests Rubbermaid's short-term problems preclude long-term disaster. The company remains the industry's undisputed innovator and the brand name of choice. "Let's face it, our customers still love Rubbermaid," said Warren Flick, chief operating officer of United States Kmart Stores.

Yes, they do. But with competition heating up and resin prices still high, analysts say things could get worse before they get better. "This stock will see \$30 again, I'm sure of it," said Mr. Bosshard of Midwest Research. "But it may see \$20 first."

What may not overly concern Mr. Schmitt, who is clearly looking for long-term solutions rather than a short-term fix. Indeed, he and his executives have been scrambling to rebuild bridges with big retailers, many of which retaliated against Rubbermaid's price increases last year by relegating its items to bottom shelves or less-trafficked areas. Rubbermaid is now swallowing more of the resin run-up and has decreased prices by an average of 4 percent.

It also has put a great deal of money into joint promotions with retailers. Stepped-up advertising accounted for most of the 14 percent increase in operating expenses this year. Rubbermaid is chipping in for multipage ads that offer all-Rubbermaid "solutions" to problems like cluttered kitchens. It is even promoting its products, and places to buy them, on the Internet (<http://www.Rubbermaid.com>).

"They've become a real partner," said Donald Lee Jonas, chairman of Lechters Inc., a chain of 652 housewares stores that, with Rubbermaid funds, has been setting up Rubbermaid corners in its larger stores. Kmart Stores recently included Rubbermaid, which does much joint advertising with the chain, among its most-favored suppliers.

Just as important, Rubbermaid is attacking its internal problems. It is well on the way toward a goal it set in 1994 to cut costs by \$336 million by the end of 1997. "We are finally get-

ting our costs down, which means we can get our prices down," said Jan Nicholson, a Rubbermaid director and a major shareholder.

Worker productivity, already up sharply in recent years, could get a further lift from Rubbermaid's new union contract, which replaces automatic annual bonuses with ones tied to improvements in delivery, productivity, scrap reduction and quality.

Rubbermaid has set up 20 business teams around product categories, to insure that each Rubbermaid plant is aware of new items and processes at other plants. One team successfully introduced in the United States a bathroom storage unit that a Rubbermaid operation developed for use in Japanese apartments, renowned for their lack of space.

In addition, different Rubbermaid businesses now pool technologies, parts and ideas. When the seasonal-products division wanted to make an ice chest more portable, it borrowed a standard part from the Cozy Coupe, a hot-selling item from the juvenile-products division, and put the chest on wheels. And seasonal products is having wild success with an outdoor shed made with "blow-molding" techniques that it learned from the office products unit.

"A few years ago it would never have occurred to our people to use each other's technologies," Mr. Schmitt said.

The businesses are sharing support functions, too. Rubbermaid has centralized payroll, accounts payable and other financial operations, eliminating 70 of 170 financial-support jobs. A resin council now negotiates resin prices for the whole company, and Mr. Schmitt plans to consolidate the rest of purchasing.

The changes have been wrenching, and sometimes brutal. Mr. Schmitt simply replaced any Rubbermaid executives who balked at losing their autonomy. Fourteen of Rubbermaid's 16 top executives have been in their jobs for less than two years, and five were hired from outside.

"I thought we could evolve, as our managers slowly accepted the need for change," Mr. Schmitt said. "The resin shocks made me realize that I had to aggressively impose change from the top down."

Rubbermaid's tale began in 1920, when a group of residents of this town 40 miles south of Cleveland started the Wooster Rubber Company to make toy balloons. During the Depression, its rubber-processing technology caught the fancy of James R. Caldwell, a chemist with a patent on an inflated rubber dustpan. Mr. Caldwell, who coined the name Rubbermaid for his products, merged his company with Wooster in 1934, and expanded into other household goods. Wooster Rubber went public in 1953 and changed its name to Rubbermaid in 1957 — soon after it made its first plastic product, a dustpan.

For years, Rubbermaid was run

by Wooster men who came to the company directly from college. Rubbermaid brought in its first quasi-outsider as chief executive in 1980: Stanley C. Gault, a marketing whiz who had cut his teeth at General Electric, but who had grown up in Wooster and whose father was a founder of Wooster Rubber.

Mr. Gault inherited a thriving company that was growing 15 percent a year. Still, he tinkered. He divested several businesses, including auto accessories and kitchen products sold at home parties, a la Tupperware. He insisted that 30 percent of sales come from products that were no more than five years old. By the time Mr. Gault left Rubbermaid in 1991, it was spewing forth new products — if only a new color — at a rate of close to one a day.

Mr. Gault engineered an acquisition drive that included the Gott Corporation, which makes insulated containers, and Little Tikes, a line of children's toys that has become Rubbermaid's primary engine for growth. And he pioneered Rubbermaid's move out of department stores and into mass-market outlets.

But there were many things Mr. Gault did not do. He did not push Rubbermaid into overseas markets. Nor did he look for synergies among the company's disparate product lines or acquisitions. Nor did he modernize its delivery and production operations, an oversight that made Rubbermaid the highest-cost producer of its industry.

For a time, that did not matter — Rubbermaid raised prices whenever its costs went up, and consumers in the free-spending 1980's barely squawked when retailers passed the price increases on to them.

His successors would not be so lucky. As the 90's progressed, mass merchandisers like Wal-Mart put huge pressure on suppliers like Rubbermaid to get wholesale prices down so that they could discount their items and still make money.

"When consumers expect the highest quality at the lowest cost, no company can maintain margins with impunity," said Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, a retired Army Chief of Staff and a Rubbermaid director. Mr. Schmitt put it more colorfully: "If the 80's were the shop-till-you-drop decade, the 90's are the one where everyone wants more for less."

Rubbermaid's competitors, like Sterilite, a privately held company based in Townsend, Mass., and Tupperware, a former unit of the Mobil Oil Corporation that was acquired in June by Zeta Consumer Products, recognized that early on. But while those companies were streamlining their manufacturing operations, Rubbermaid, with spectacularly bad timing, became distracted by its first-ever bout of management turmoil.

In 1992, Mr. Gault's successor, Walter W. Williams, quit after only a year in the job. Mr. Schmitt, who had just been promoted to president, was the logical next choice, but the board

AT A GLANCE

Rubbermaid

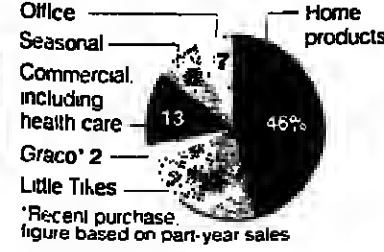
Wooster, Ohio
Makes and distributes molded plastic products, including housewares, health care items and storage containers. It also makes the Graco line of infant products and Little Tikes toys for toddlers.

FINANCIAL INDICATORS	
Friday's close	\$23.75
52-week low; high	\$22.125; \$30.375
Market capitalization	\$3.4 billion
1995 sales	\$2.3 billion
1995 profit	\$59.8 million or 38¢ a share
Estimated 1996 profit, analysts' consensus	\$1.05 a share
Debt-to-capital ratio	11.3%
	RBD 5 & P. 500
Price to estimated 1996 earnings	21.9 22.7
Price to book	3.4 5.2
Dividend yield	2.6% 1.9%

Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; Datastream; Prudential Securities

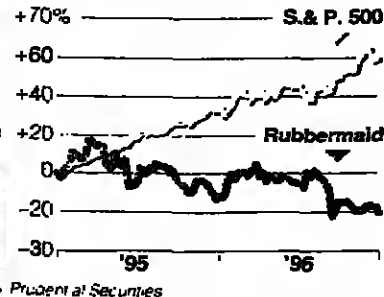
AN ECLECTIC MIX

Product sales as a percentage of Rubbermaid's 1996 total, as estimated by Heather Hay, a stock analyst at Prudential Securities.



WIDENING GAP

The percentage change in Rubbermaid's stock price and the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index since the beginning of 1995.



Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; Datastream; Prudential Securities

did not think he was ready for the top post.

He was only 48 years old, and he lacked global experience. Although he is German by birth, his family had moved to Wooster when he was a child. He joined Rubbermaid right out of college, and never left.

So Mr. Gault, who by then was chief executive of Goodyear Tire and Rubber in nearby Akron, agreed to return as co-chairman until Mr. Schmitt got his bearings.

Rubbermaid seemed to be in fine shape when Mr. Schmitt finally assumed full control a year later, in 1993. It continued to generate a new product a day, and its sales and profits kept going up.

But the seeds of trouble were sown by that growth. Managers felt pressure to constantly come up with something new, and would often introduce a superfluous color or stylistic twist that did not increase sales. "They created manufacturing complexity and retail confusion," said Andrew Shore, an analyst with Paine Webber.

Mr. Schmitt quickly recognized the problem. In 1994, he announced his cost-cutting drive. And he began peppering Rubbermaid's ranks with operating mavens. For example, he hired Fred Gruenwald, an operating whiz at Black & Decker, as the head of home products, Rubbermaid's largest division.

"The shareholders were too little, too late. In 1995, resin prices were wild, doubling before the year was out. That alone added roughly \$200 million to Rubbermaid's cost of goods. Rubbermaid absorbed some of that cost, but it could not absorb all of it. Month after month, Rubbermaid raised prices across the board. Specialty retailers like Lechters, which rely on brand names like Rubbermaid to pull in customers, decimated their own margins to keep Rubbermaid prices down. The big discounters retaliated by giving the best shelves to Rubbermaid's rivals — and by taking grim satisfaction as Rubbermaid's sales started sliding. "Retailers warned Rubbermaid, 'You will kill your business if you don't do something about your prices,'" said Mr. Flick of Kmart.

Competitors, meanwhile, "began to smell blood," recalled Mr. Shore of Paine Webber. Sterilite and Tupperware began to come out with innovative housewares. Thomas Murdough, the founder of Little Tikes, started Step 2, which makes mailboxes, rolling stools and other resin-based products. Fisher Price, the huge toy company, started making large outdoor toys, a market that Little Tikes had long owned.

Nor is the competition about to lessen. Tucker's new owner, Zeta, has been slashing the company's overhead costs and selling new products, from plastic storage bins with cedar inserts to trash cans made from recycled plastics (and thus immune to resin price increases).

Rajeev Bal, Zeta's president, boasts that the new products are bolstering all of Tucker's sales. "When you sell a retailer on innovative products, some of the older products go along for the ride," he said.

Rubbermaid clearly recognizes the competitive threat, as the product fair showed. It has eliminated nearly 6,000 color and size variations on products, cutting the total num-

ber of Rubbermaid items by 45 percent. Where it used to offer 426 colors, it now has a palette of 58. All of that has lowered costs enough that, when resin prices went up again in October, Rubbermaid could hold prices on garbage cans, laundry baskets and other high-volume items, raising them only on products like food storage containers with easy-to-open lids that competitors have not yet duplicated.

"The price increases last year made our customers think that we weren't listening to them," said David Gibbons, head of the home products division. "We are not doing anything in a vacuum."

Now, Rubbermaid is trying to find products that competitors cannot knock off so quickly. "It took Sterilite just 18 months to copy our fancy contoured trash cans," said Richard Allen, the vice president for research and development at home products. "We've got to find products that are harder to copy."

Rubbermaid is also intensifying efforts to track consumer tastes. About three years ago it began setting up Everything Rubbermaid stores, each carrying a full range of Rubbermaid products. The company watches what sorts of displays attract customers most and which colors or styles are most appealing. It quickly passes along any merchandising tips to its retail customers.

Mr. Schmitt also learned that when it displayed consumer cleaning items next to sturdier but more expensive commercial varieties, many consumers chose the latter.

The juvenile-products division has set up a consumer laboratory of a different sort. At Little Tikes headquarters in Hudson, Ohio, some 60 miles from Wooster, it is operating a day care center fully stocked with play kitchens, Cozy Coupes, climbing bars and all kinds of Rubbermaid items. Product designers and sales staff watch the children daily through a one-way mirror, to see which toys they play with most, and how they react to their playthings.

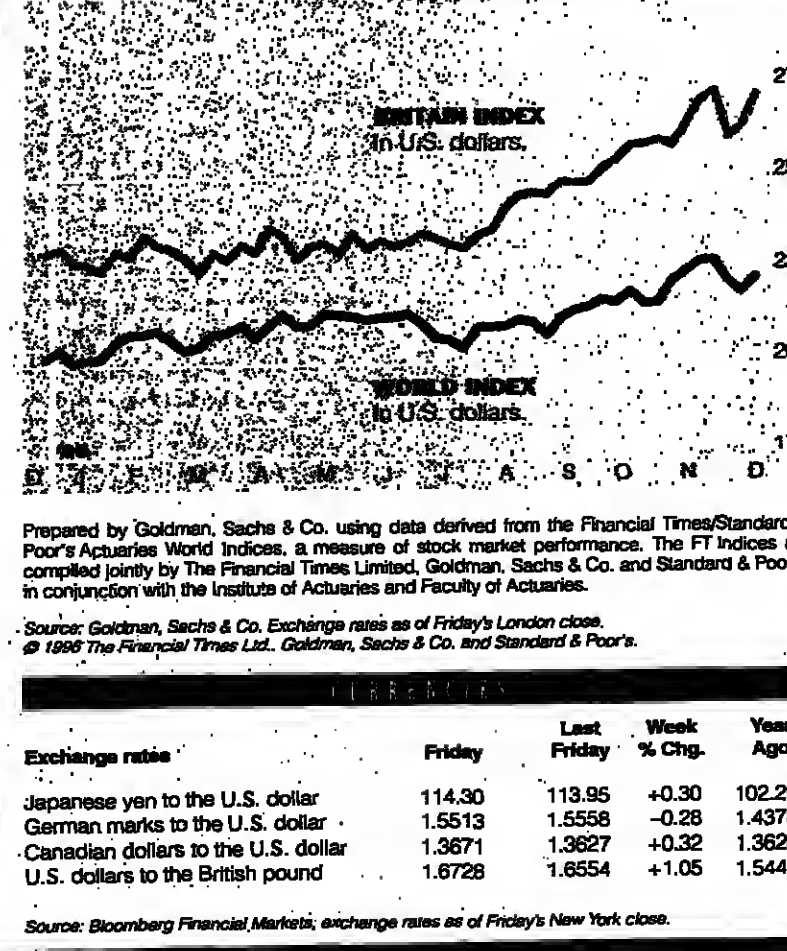
And the cost-cutting continues. Last year Mr. Schmitt closed nine plants, eliminating 1,170 jobs. He is replacing outlying warehouses with warehouse space next to factories. And he has been turning Rubbermaid's plants into focused factories, which send the highest-volume products directly to the customer, without any stopover in inventory.

The moves have been expensive. Nonetheless, Rubbermaid enjoys low debt and expects to generate \$300 million from operations this year, "the strongest cash flow in the company's history," said George C. Weigand, the chief financial officer.

That has enabled Mr. Schmitt to continue to expand the company by acquisition. He has bought Carex, a line of plastic products for home health care; Empire Brushes, which adds cleaning supplies to Rubbermaid's line of dustpans and trash cans; and Graco Children's Products, which makes items for children up to 2.

Adding Graco to its stable enables Rubbermaid to appeal to the same parents who may purchase Little Tikes toys for tots ages 2 to 6. "It's a way to get our first handshake with a new mother even earlier," said Richard D. Gates, the senior vice president for business development.

Country	IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	217.13	2.9	7	14.3	17	4.22	161.66	6.9
Austria	166.59	0.7	25	6.9	21	1.90	150.67	16.1
Belgium	225.23	1.6	18	7.7	20	3.75	177.74	17.1
Brazil	187.50	4.1	3	35.9	1	1.71	350.28	45.2
Britain	273.00	3.1	6	18.4	12	3.92	242.85	10.3
Canada	187.94	2.3	11	26.6	6	1.96	186.06	26.9
Denmark	339.14	1.5	19	17.4	13	1.68	274.45	26.1
Finland	240.20	2.2	13	26.4	3	2.15	233.75	37.1
France	209.33	2.6	10	16.7	14	2.84	172.29	25.2
Germany	166.51	1.5	17	13.9	18	1.60	150.67	23.7
Hong Kong	497.48	2.3	12	28.3	4	3.15	494.18	28.4
Indonesia	225.42	1.2	20		27	1.56	326.43	
Ireland	313.39	1.0	22	22.6	7	3.44	266.67	18.7
Italy	81.74	3.3	5	10.9	19	2.23	93.28	8.8
Japan	131.52	-1.7	27	-15.1	24	0.61	94.92	-8.0
Malaysia	585.84	0.7	24	20.6	10	1.09	589.96	20.1
Mexico	1,206.91	4.6	2	16.5	15	1.07	1,034.78	18.6
Netherlands	325.28	3.7	4	19.3	11	2.85	258.84	29.7
New Zealand	91.89	0.7	23	15.4	16	4.05	68.85	6.4
Norway	283.61	1.5	18	22.6	6	2.03	249.02	25.6
Philippines	204.22	1.8	15		28	0.62	267.67	
Singapore	413.72	1.2	21	1.6	22	1.03	256.84	0.5
South Africa	312.86	2.2	14	-18.8	25	2.46	320.20	4.3
Spain	211.10	8.1	1	27.8	5	2.95	209.27	37.6
Sweden	414.86	2.5	9	32.9	2	2.03	418.99	36.8
Switzerland	236.89	-0.3	26	0.3	23	1.51	195.96	18.4
Thailand	96.75	-8.8	28	-42.5	26	3.57	96.19	-41.5
United States	304.55	2.7	8	21.2	9	1.97	304.55	21.2



Dec. 16-20: Stocks Bounce Back After Two Disappointing Weeks

DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Up 2.78%
S. & P. 500 index	748.67
Blue chips	Up 2.85%
Dow 30 industrials	6,484.40
Small capitalization	Up 0.71%
Russell 2000 index	356.71

DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Down 0.01%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	195.21
Municipals	Up 0.03%
Bond Buyer index	117.16
Corporates	Up 0.05%
Merrill Lynch Master index	849.20

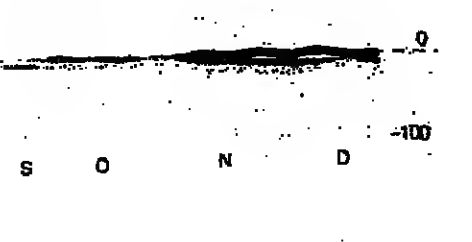
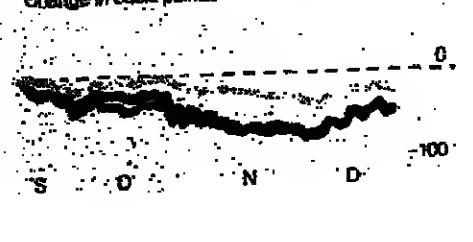
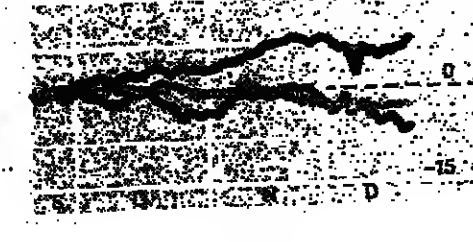
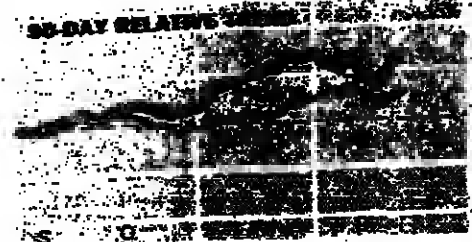
AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Up 2.53%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	233.21
Asian stocks	Down 0.90%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	150.08
Gold	Up 0.19%
New York cash price	\$389.30

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

BONDS	
Long bonds	6.60%
30-year Treasuries	Up 3 basis pts.
Notes	5.83%
2-year Treasuries	Up 10 basis pts.
Municipals	5.73%
Bond Buyer index	Unchanged

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	4.82%
Taxable average	Unchanged
Bank C.D.'s	5.04%
1-year small savers	Up 1 basis pt.
Stocks	1.99%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 6 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

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Not So Innocent Abroad

Reflecting on the unseemly access political doormen and their business friends have had to the White House, President Clinton said on Friday that better screening of visitors is needed. That is an understatement. It now turns out that earlier this year Charles Yeh Lin Trie, the Little Rock restaurateur turned Democratic Party fund-raiser, brought a bugle powerful Chinese business official, who oversees arms deals, to a meeting with Mr. Clinton. This occurred at a time when tensions between Washington and Beijing were high.

This meeting, first reported in The Washington Post, improperly put Mr. Clinton in the company of a man whose trading company is owned by the Chinese military and was responsible for arms deals that the United States was vehemently protesting at the time. Like other elements of the Democratic Party's dubious fund-raising practices, it raises a disturbing question. Have the Clinton Administration's efforts to expand American trade spawned a new breed of influence peddlers who specialize in opening White House doors they then use to advance their own business deals, as well as to raise offshore campaign contributions?

It is the duty of the Justice Department and the next Congress to look into who gained and who benefited through the network of fund-raising practices and favors conferred by the Clinton Administration. Criminal prosecution may be warranted. A reform of campaign fund-raising and its intersection with Government officials is clearly required. The White House seems to have broken new ground in dispensing superficially modest benefits like attending White House receptions, serving on commissions or joining trade missions abroad. But because of the perception of closeness to power that was conferred, these benefits were apparently used by the recipients to enhance their status abroad and to lubricate lucrative business deals.

The disclosures about foreign links to contributors initially centered on the meetings between President Clinton and James Riady, the Indonesian billionaire whose former employee, John Huang,

was a prolific fund-raiser for the Democrats. This month the publicity has focused on Mr. Trie, who got a Presidential appointment to an Asian trade commission and may have used it to enhance his ties with officials in China.

More than its predecessors, the Clinton Administration has broadened the scope of diplomacy to include commercial activities overseas. American ambassadors in some foreign capitals spend much of their time trying to secure business for American companies. Americans officials say they are only doing what other advanced countries have been doing for years. But in the absence of strict ground rules, the emphasis on "commercial diplomacy" has led to a dangerous blurring of Government and private interests. It created a climate in which businessmen, especially those in Asia, used campaign donations to gain White House access that could be parlayed back into their business deals.

Congress should work in a bipartisan way with the Administration to draw up codes of conduct and laws to prevent a recurrence in future elections. Federal law ought to bar foreign contributions and contributions by American subsidiaries of foreign companies to political campaigns. It should also impose strict limits on contributions of any kind to both candidates and political parties.

As Mr. Clinton said, the White House should look more thoroughly into the background of guests and of candidates for various commissions and advisory panels. Any benefits provided by the White House and other Government offices need to be subject to rigorous and detailed disclosure.

The new world of commercial diplomacy may be complex, but the rules that govern American behavior can be simple. It is improper and unseemly for the American Government to further the interests of businessmen in return for campaign contributions, even if the assistance is innocuous as an invitation to the White House and the eventual payoff occurs in some other country months or even years removed from the campaign gift.

Texaco's Turnaround

Embarrassed by a discrimination case that exposed a regressive corporate culture, Texaco has announced a comprehensive plan to promote employment and business opportunities for minorities. The move should help Texaco's bottom line and is being done for business reasons, the company says. But Texaco also seems genuinely contrite. Civil rights leaders who had condemned Texaco as a dinosaur oow hail it as a model of corporate commitment to diversity. Moreover, at a time when the concept of affirmative action has fallen on hard times politically, Texaco may emerge as a leader in the struggle for equal opportunity.

Early last month, a damaging tape surfaced in a two-year-old racial discrimination lawsuit charging Texaco with a lackluster performance in hiring and promoting minorities. On the tape, a few company managers could be heard apparently plotting the destruction of important documents relating to the lawsuit and making what some viewed as derogatory comments about minority employees.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and other civil rights leaders called for a boycott. In mid-November, the company said it would settle the lawsuit by paying \$140 million to its minority employees. Texaco has now unveiled the hiring and promotion plan, which is aimed at increasing employment of African-Americans from 9 to 13 percent and of women from 32 to 35 percent by the year 2000. The company wants to raise overall employment of minorities

from 23 to 29 percent. Texaco officials insist that these are goals, not quotas, based on realistic business and demographic projections.

To help reach these targets, Texaco will set up training programs aimed at educating all of its United States-based employees on diversity issues and enhancing the career prospects of minority employees through "mentoring" plans. Compensation for senior managers will be tied in part to how well they do in terms of increasing work-force diversity. Beyond that, Texaco aims to increase the pool of potential minority employees by intensifying its college recruitment efforts and financing a nationwide internship and scholarship program.

Over five years, Texaco will expand its contracts and purchasing agreements with minority- and women-owned businesses from \$135 million to \$1 billion. That includes contracts with engineering and construction companies and professional service concerns like law firms, advertisers and accountants. Texaco also pledges to do more business with banks and insurance companies owned by minorities and women.

Texaco executives say the plan is tailored to the company's special needs and that any example it sets for the rest of corporate America is coincidental. They also concede that they have a long way to go. Even so, Texaco has made a remarkably fast turnaround with what appears to be an aggressive and realistic plan to make amends.

Helping the Most Vulnerable Newcomers

New York City's ability to assist the poorest members of its many immigrant communities, particularly the young and the disabled, is in peril this holiday season. No less than half the city's population is either foreign-born or descended from a foreign-born parent. The hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of these newcomers have brought many neighborhoods back to life. Yet the need to assist the most vulnerable members of the immigrant community is greater than ever. Such help can be provided through many of the charitable organizations supported by The New York Times Neediest Cases appeal for 1996-97.

Assistance to New York's immigrants has been a hallmark of the city's charitable tradition since the early part of this century, when 80 percent of its population was foreign-born or descended directly from someone who was. Immigrants face special difficulties when a relative falls sick or a source of income is cut off. They often need language skills, housing, job training and sometimes simply food and emergency shelter. Their children need help adjusting to the demands of a new society. Government alone cannot do the job.

The immigrants' plight may soon get worse. Within a few months, food stamps and disability payments will be cut off from legal immigrants by the welfare changes enacted by Congress earlier this year. Private agencies are bracing to try to fill the gaps. The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, one of seven organizations receiving help from the Neediest Cases appeal, is already seeing a surge in customers at its food pantries and kitchens as a result of cuts in the Federal food stamp

program. The federation needs help for all its 260 constituent agencies, which distribute food and provide foster care, child welfare services and health care programs for the elderly.

The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, another organization that receives help from the Neediest Cases fund, supports programs that provide courses in English and job skills, followed by help in job placement. The agency's assistance, though sometimes small in dollar amounts, can make the difference between a program's success and failure. The United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, still another recipient of Neediest Cases help, specializes in services for immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have flooded in over the past five years.

Like immigrants of the past, the Jews from Russia, Ukraine and other places in the collapsed Soviet empire bring skills, dedication and hope. The U.J.A.-Federation provides vital services through its Y.M.H.A.'s, community centers and other agencies. They help these newcomers prepare to become citizens, and help their children cope with their new environments. Some of the families that received help in the 1970's are now in a position to repay the generosity, contributing money to the federation to help the new waves of immigrants.

New York City owes it to history and its future to help newcomers and others in need. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Checks should be made payable to The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 5193, General Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10087.

What Women Want Is a Lot Less Victimology

To the Editor: Unfortunately, your Dec. 15 Week in Review piece "Sitting Pretty: Is This What Women Want?" never satisfactorily addresses the question it poses. Flitting from the hackneyed (references to sitcoms and PMS jokes) to the banal (claims of feminist conspiracy theories), you manage to both dismiss and insult the women you claim to describe.

For example, single motherhood is characterized as the rational decision of women to escape the "directives of husbands and fathers." Then, in one leap, these same gender pioneers are depicted as fresh advertising meat for network executives eager to sell them "big-ticket goods and services." The reader is left wondering if single mothers are foolish on the one hand or dumb on the other.

To compound matters, no one outside the ghetto of feminist ideology is cited for her views on the "female condition." As a result, the reader is subjected to such rhetorical spasms as "is consumer power real power?" made necessary by the insistence of feminists that despite economic, political and educational progress, women remain powerless. Is flower power the solution?



There is no backlash, only boredom with feminism's radicals; boredom with a fringe that serves up victimology breakfast, lunch and dinner. Perhaps if feminists spent more time in the kitchens they've been so diligently remodeling on the gender-neutral floor plan, they would learn the basic rules of menu planning. BARBARA J. LEDERER, Arlington, Va., Dec. 18, 1996. The writer is executive director of the Independent Women's Forum.

Share Work Equally

To the Editor: Re "Is This What Women Want?" (Week in Review, Dec. 15):

A woman has the opportunity for equal education, and she has the opportunity to pursue a professional career; however, as a reward for her hard work outside the home, she still does, as you report, "81 percent of the cooking, 78 percent of the bill-paying." It seems that in some ways women are treated a bit like schoolchildren — "Yes, you can go out and work, but I expect that this will not interfere with your housework!"

Forcing women to choose a career or a family creates a situation of inequality, mainly because it is a choice that men are simply not faced with. All I know is that as a woman, I want respect as a human being. To answer the question posed by your article, what women want is this respect. We want the division of labor within the house to be such that men contribute without thinking that they are doing us a favor, because they are not.

As a woman, it is out my responsibility to take care of all, or even 80 percent, of the cooking and cleaning for the household, and it is not nagging to expect that men do more than 20 percent of it. It is men's and women's responsibility to do our equal shares and to determine, as a family, what those shares are. Feminists argue for the respect women deserve in both the public and private realms. KATHLEEN PORTER, Worcester, Mass., Dec. 15, 1996. The writer is a senior at the College of the Holy Cross.

Trust, Not Fear

To the Editor:

Re "Is This What Women Want?" (Week in Review, Dec. 15): We want our voices and values to be heard. We want to be involved in making decisions with men, not power over men. We want a world in which conflict is resolved with mediation and communication rather than violence. We want to be able to love and trust men, not fear them.

I believe that a great deal is at stake in how effective women become in clarifying and communicating our vision. The world desperately needs a balance of male and female voices and values to stop the destruction of each other and the earth. LAURA CRITES, Honolulu, Dec. 18, 1996. The writer is a domestic violence consultant.

Mourn a Parent, but Hold the Social Agenda

To the Editor:

Having lost my own mother to breast cancer last year, I sympathize with Nancy Weber's grief ("Wearing Fur, and Proud of It," Op-Ed, Dec. 18). I am offended, however, by her apparent use of her mother's death to lash out at people who oppose fur.

With considerable skill, Ms. Weber touched upon the trade's main arguments for fur: even as her poor mother was ravaged by cancer, a fur coat said she "was beautiful still." That's a powerful message. Secondly, the coat, now worn by Ms. Weber, stands for her beloved mother and bestows warmth. What depraved soul could, or would, assail such arguments? On the less rosy side, Ms. Weber got away with calling people who don't like fur "fun-natics" and hypocrites.

Unlike Ms. Weber, I'd rather not share intimate feelings about my mother's death to bolster political or philosophical positions. Suffice it to say that my mother was a world-class beauty — even through the cancer — with bone structure envied by women a fraction of her age. She refused to wear fur garments. Once she found out how the animals were

treated and killed, that was it. She never touched the coats she had; they remained in the basement, sheathed in plastic, for decades.

To the last, my mom had an abiding love for animals — oo the hoof. In fact, during her last stay in the hospital, one of the few things that brought a smile to her face were visits from my kitten, a real, live number called Sweet Pea. There's a powerful message there, too, one where nobody gets hurt, where compassion reigns, and one that keeps me warm. SUSAN RUSSELL, Little Silver, N.J., Dec. 18, 1996.

Mink Stole Dress-Up

To the Editor:

Nancy Weber's Dec. 18 Op-Ed article brought tears to my eyes. My mother, who lived to see only one of my grandchildren, adored her mink stole. She would have loved knowing that her four great-granddaughters delight in playing dress-up in her caddy fur piece — even those from our animal-activist, vegetarian branch. ERNA NEWMAN, Dix Hills, L.I., June 19, 1996.

Let the U.N. Take Over NATO's Assignments

To the Editor:

David Fromkin's criticism of NATO expansion (Op-Ed, Dec. 18) is on the mark. This policy is dangerous and reckless.

Imagine if the Warsaw Pact had stayed in existence after the cold war and was pursuing expansion into Mexico. We know the reaction in the United States would be outrage and readiness to go to war. Now imagine how the Russian people perceive the expansion of NATO right to their doorstep.

The real question is why NATO exists at all. This military alliance was created to keep the former Soviet Union in check, and even NATO acknowledges that its mission was accomplished. NATO must not be tolerated as a tool to maintain American political and economic interests. The billions of dollars spent annually on NATO should be allocated to the United Nations, including paying our shameful debt. The dark years of the cold war made it virtually impossible for the U.N. to advance conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Now we have the chance to make this vital organization stronger, more representative and adequately financed.

It is the United Nations, not NATO, that is essential for building the global village of social and economic justice, lasting peace and a sustainable environment for the 21st century. DOUGLAS MATTERN, President, Assn. of World Citizens, San Francisco, Dec. 18, 1996.

attack on one be considered an attack on all, would undermine deterrence by making NATO little more than a gentlemen's club. Limiting Article 5 to current members would engender resentment among new members and create a confusing two-tier security arrangement.

By keeping would-be allies at arm's length and by encouraging potential aggressors to doubt our resolve, Mr. Fromkin's skewed prescriptions would just lead to disaster. JAMES H. ANDERSON, Quantico, Va., Dec. 18, 1996.

The writer is an associate professor of international relations at the Marine Corps University.

NATO's Nuances

To the Editor:

David Fromkin ("Hidden Danger in a New NATO," Op-Ed, Dec. 18) warns that in buying into an expanded NATO, the United States is overextending itself "much too far to the east" into a "feud-prone Central, Eastern and Balkan Europe" and "undertaking to go to war to defend distant countries that... are not vital to our interests." One wonders why a scholar at a distinguished American university begins his argument by misrepresenting Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Mr. Fromkin cites the words of Article 5 asserting that an attack against one of the parties "shall be considered an attack against them all." Stopping there is intellectually dishonest. Mr. Fromkin does say that the words "just fall short of an automatic commitment to go to war," but why not use the words of the treaty? Article 5 says each party will take "such action as it deems necessary."

Never was the United States "required" to go to war by the "hair-trigger words of Article 5." If war were automatic, the United States Senate would not have ratified the treaty. HENRY G. GOLE, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Dec. 19, 1996. The writer was an Army attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, 1973-77.

Don't Distort Flaws In Canada Health Care

To the Editor:

"Doctor, What's the Prognosis? Crisis for Canada" (news article, Dec. 15) quotes our survey data, available through the National Forum on Health, that showed that a great majority of Canadians do not believe they would receive fair treatment in a tiered health system in which people can pay to jump the queue for services. But you ignore other data and thereby distort the Canadian system.

Contrary to your report, the proportion of Canadians reporting that they used medical and hospital services outside their own province in the previous six months has remained stable at about 3 percent since 1990. Of that 3 percent, most received services in another province.

Between 1990 and 1994 the proportion of Canadians reporting they had to wait for a specialist physician remained at about 15 percent. But contrary to your article, the proportion of those who waited four weeks or more for a physician appointment declined, and few reported waiting 10 weeks.

It is true that increasing proportions of Canadians report dissatisfaction with health services. These consumer beliefs may reflect actual declines in physician and nursing quality because of financing shortages in Canada. But there is evidence that declining satisfaction among consumers and physicians is an international, not a Canadian, phenomenon associated with increasing levels of education and expectations. EARL BERGER, Mng. Dir., Canada Health Monitor, Toronto, Dec. 15, 1996.

Painful Price Tag

To the Editor:

"Doctor, What's the Prognosis? Crisis in Canada" (news article, Dec. 15) misdiagnoses the health-care problems in Canada. Canada is simply one of many countries straining to maintain a universal health insurance program at a price tag near 10 percent of its gross domestic product. Physician concerns about eroding quality of care (exaggerated in your article) are chronic symptoms of Canada's success, not symptoms of its failure.

Canada teaches us that balancing a health-care budget causes pain. Tough decisions need to be made about allocating scarce resources. This means fewer hospitals, less technology, lower pay and rising unemployment among health-care workers (including physicians), and ultimately slowing the advance of medicine. If Americans think our prognosis under managed care is any different, then our collective diagnosis is delirium. STEVEN JAY KATZ, M.D., Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 17, 1996. The writer is an assistant professor of medicine, University of Michigan.

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Let's End the Cold War — Again

By Stephen Sestanovich

This week marks the fifth anniversary of the breakup of the Soviet Union, perhaps the most astonishing single event in the second half of the 20th century. The collapse combined at least three-and-a-half revolutions in one. Leninist politics were to be supplanted by democratic pluralism; Stalinist economics, by private ownership and the market; the czarist empire, by a dozen suddenly independent states, and what little was left of the cold war in 1991, by rapturous Russian-American partnership.

Five years are hardly enough time for a final verdict on changes of this magnitude, but they are enough for provisional judgments about what's working and what isn't, and where re-thinking is needed. Some surprising conclusions suggest themselves. These transformations that aroused the deepest doubts five years ago — that led serious people to ask whether Russia was really ready for westernization — have generally gone better than the doubters expected.

By contrast, where our hopes were highest and the revolution had gone furthest even before the Soviet collapse — that is, in Russian-American relations — we have too little to show for the past half-decade. We woud the cold war. It should be further behind us than it is.

First, the better-than-expected results: When the Soviet Union disappeared, the skeptical view had it that neither history nor culture prepared Russians for democratic capitalism, much less for the discomfort of getting there. Faced with (to quote one recent scholarly outburst) "an endless collapse of everything essential for a decent existence," the people were obviously going to opt for something familiar, like dictatorship.

Such forecasts staked a lot on a reading of the popular mind. But the best research on the Russian man-in-the-street suggests that his views have remained much calmer than many Western analyses. Year by year since 1992, the proportion of Russians who believe that their economic situation is either holding steady, or getting only marginally better or worse, has never been less than 60 percent and never more than 65 percent.

Behind such figures, of course, lie a lot of frayed overcoats, starchy diets and appalling medical care. Yet, if popular attitudes are changing at all in response to prolonged privation, the trend seems to be toward slightly greater optimism.

In 1992, 24 percent of Russians polled said they expected life to be a little better after five years. That figure has inched up to 32 percent. (And the 15 percent who said they expected things to be a lot worse has inched down to 9 percent.)

As for the idea that Russians simply don't get what democracy is all about, or are disenchanted with it, the polls again tell a different story. When asked to evaluate specific democratic freedoms — religion, speech, assembly, independent political activity — Russians prefer the present to the past by majorities that have grown steadily over time and are now as high as 5 to 1.

Public attitudes of this kind hardly guarantee good policies or strong democratic institutions, but without them neither policies nor institutions will survive for long. For all Russia's difficulties (and some will not be overcome for many years), it is tracing a slow, bumpy but dogged route to political and economic normalcy.

Given this record, it is discouraging to see Russia's relations with the outside world unfold so much less favorably, particularly measured against the expectations of five years ago. Today we remember the Bush Administration's "new world order" talk only with embarrassment.

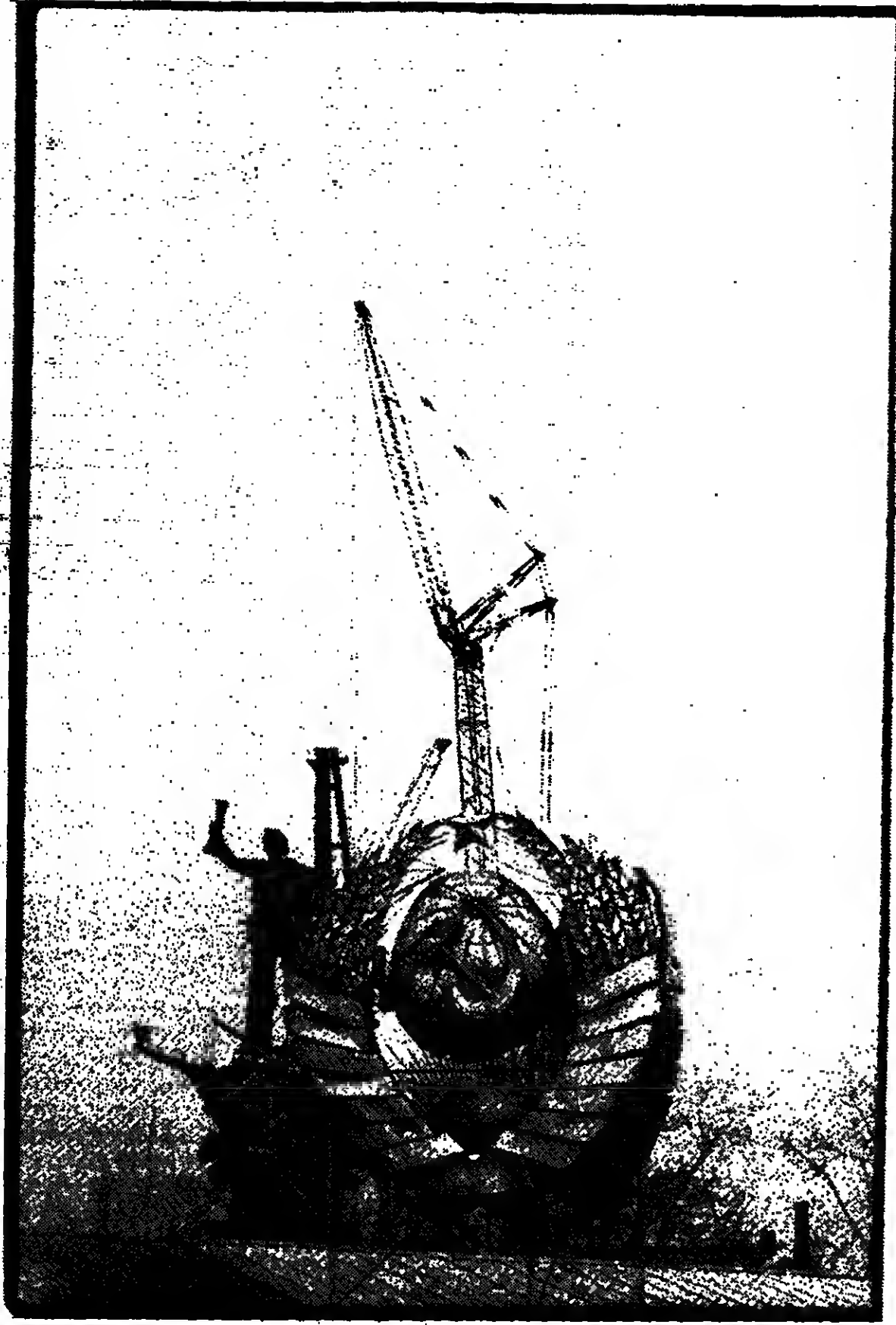
But if the slogan was fatuous, the aim was not. Applied to Russian-American relations, it meant putting the struggles of the cold war aside, not simply continuing to wage them on (for us) more favorable terms.

The reason for doing so was not to make a show of magnanimity toward a defeated power, but because the war was really over and we needed a framework for dealing effectively with the problems that would preoccupy us in the future.

We're not there yet. In fact, with the dispute that has taken shape over the expansion of NATO, the past is definitely gaining on us. It would be hard to think of a policy that more pointlessly re-enacts cold-war battles without really helping us to deal with post-cold-war problems.

Over the next year and more, as

Stephen Sestanovich is vice president for Russian and Eurasian affairs at the Carnegie Endowment.



Sylvia Plachy

NATO discusses the first round of new invites, and then the second, we may have to get used to a kind of retro-diplomacy on both sides. Blustery "take-it-or-leave-it" offers, walkouts and so on. 1991 will seem very far away; 1981 may not.

The cold war, however, does not live on only in policies that revivify East-West disagreements and dividing lines. It can lie hidden, ironically, even in policies that seem to unite the former combatants. There is no more striking example of this than the old superpower nuclear standoff, which — five full years after the Soviet Union broke up — remains almost completely unchanged.

Yes, the number of missiles and warheads is down, and bombers are no longer on 24-hour alert, but otherwise the nature of the relationship is

The nuclear standoff remains unchanged, five years after the Soviet Union died.

exactly the same. Two huge arsenals still confront each other; the strategy of each side is still to be able to respond overwhelmingly to a first strike, and the only way to carry out the strategy is still to modernize weapons at hand so as to be able to use them if it ever becomes necessary to do so. Russian generals now routinely say that the role of nuclear weapons in their national security is actually increasing. The Pentagon, meanwhile, discusses how many upgraded submarine-launched missiles it needs.

This is not where we should have ended up. It may seem to do no harm simply to chip away slowly at these antiquated arsenals, but nuclear inertia does not serve either side's interests.

Expense is clearly the least of the reasons, but it's not nothing. A Brookings study last year put the annual cost of the American nuclear deterrent at more than \$20 billion; the Pentagon says the number is less. Even if it is much less, and even if we could save only half of it (and that might be hard — dismantlement costs a lot, too), both we and the Russians could put the money to more effective military use.

A second, more pressing reason to break our nuclear inertia is the help we would get in dealing with the "loose nukes" problem. If the entire Russian and American nuclear weapons inventory were only a few hundred warheads on each side, at a few controlled locations, the formidable task of tracking tens of thousands of weapons across Russian territory would be made much more manageable.

A third reason for avoiding a business-as-usual approach is that, if

Russian-American relations become more contentious, nuclear weapons are not likely to remain a sleepy area of agreement or non-activity.

Already, Russian generals buzz with talk about deploying tactical nuclear weapons once more in neighboring Belarus if NATO expands, and rejecting the Start 2 treaty has come to be seen as one of the few ways for Russia to express its frustration at being isolated from NATO's grand design. When even our incremental nuclear policies become tangled up in this political confrontation, we'll regret not having taken a more radical approach.

There is a final reason, by far the most important, for rejecting the strategic nuclear legacy handed down to us by the cold war. These weapons may have been a useful form of power in the past, but they are not likely to be so in the future, and we should not want them to be.

If, for example, the United States ends up with the very same nuclear relationship with China that it had with the Soviet Union — growing strategic arsenals poised to destroy each other — we will have to consider this result a failure. But it seems by far the most likely outcome if we do nothing whatever to refashion our nuclear relationship with Russia.

One obviously better alternative is to greatly reduce offensive forces while steadily increasing our reliance on technologies for defending against ballistic missiles. Over time, with a number of possible rising nuclear powers on their borders, the Russians themselves are likely to see the advantages of such an approach, but if they have a better idea, let's hear it. And if the Clinton Administration has one, let's hear that, too.

Instead, the Administration has been evasive on the subject. When a large group of former generals and admirals from a dozen countries called for abolition of nuclear weapons two weeks ago, we should have heard from the Pentagon that zero is the wrong number — these weapons can't be disintegrated — but that radically reducing their place in international security is the right goal.

Similarly, the Administration has to work much harder at showing Congress that it does not oppose the Republican plan to create a nationwide "shield" against ballistic missiles simply because it prefers to rely for all time on large offensive arsenals. It should show that it is ready to deploy missile defenses where they are most practical today, to protect our friends and forces in regional conflicts.

Because of the contentious new tone of Russian-American relations, the Administration is going to find it hard to resolve nuclear weapons issues with Moscow unless it can say more about the place these weapons will have in our own military strategy. When Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton meet next March to salvage something of their "partnership," they could do far worse than to put

this problem on the agenda. If they talk seriously and act boldly, five years from now maybe the cold war will really be over.

Foreign Affairs THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Watch the Birdie

HONG KONG
In the old days, coal miners used to bring a canary down into the shaft with them to serve as an early warning system. As long as the canary was alive, things were fine. But if the canary keeled over and died it meant there was a gas leak and it was time to get out — fast. On July 1, Hong Kong returns to China under a deal with Britain in which Beijing has promised

buying up Hong Kong companies by making the owners "an offer they can't refuse." Last April, Swire Pacific Ltd., one of Hong Kong's oldest trading houses, agreed to sell China a big stake in its two lucrative airlines, Cathay Pacific and Dragonair, at what was clearly a bargain rate, which The Economist said smacked of "political blackmail." If Chinese-owned firms appear to be using their political clout to swing deals, this city's international reputation for having a level playing field is over.

Gauging Hong Kong's health.

to maintain Hong Kong's open, free-wheeling and autonomous character. For a week I've been asking people here what canaries the world should watch to know whether Hong Kong is alive and well after China takes over.

Hong Kongers are not shy on this question. At the recent Manila APEC economic summit, the Hong Kong delegate handed China's President, Jiang Zemin, a plastic paperweight that had four metal bars encased inside. Each bar had a Chinese phrase encapsulating what Hong Kongers see as their most important canaries. The phrases were: "The Rule of Law," "Right to Freedoms," "An Effective and Non-Corrupt Civil Service" and "A Level Playing Field" (no special advantages for those close to Beijing). At the top and bottom were the words: "Continued Stability and Prosperity for Hong Kong After 1997." The Hong Kong official said: "It wasn't subtle. We made it into a paperweight so Jiang can keep it on his desk."

Others offered more specific canaries. Business executives told me to watch if prices of luxury homes — already trading for up to \$20 million — continue to soar. That would mean mayors and provincial governors from inside China, who are the source of the worst corruption there and have access to a lot of cash, were buying their way into Hong Kong in order to launder, divert or stash ill-gotten gains. The more hot money floating around here, the less likely Hong Kong's clean civil service will remain clean. "Well water and river water don't mix," one Hong Kong official said to me when I asked about Chinese Communist mayors doing business in Hong Kong. Another big worry of Hong Kongers is that Chinese companies might start

Another key canary: To whom will the new Chief Executive of Hong Kong, C. H. Tung, report? If he reports directly to China's President that will mean he can represent Hong Kong's interests to the very top, unfiltered. If he has to go through the bureaucracy, like any other provincial governor, he will be dealing with people who barely have a clue about Hong Kong's international character and how to preserve it.

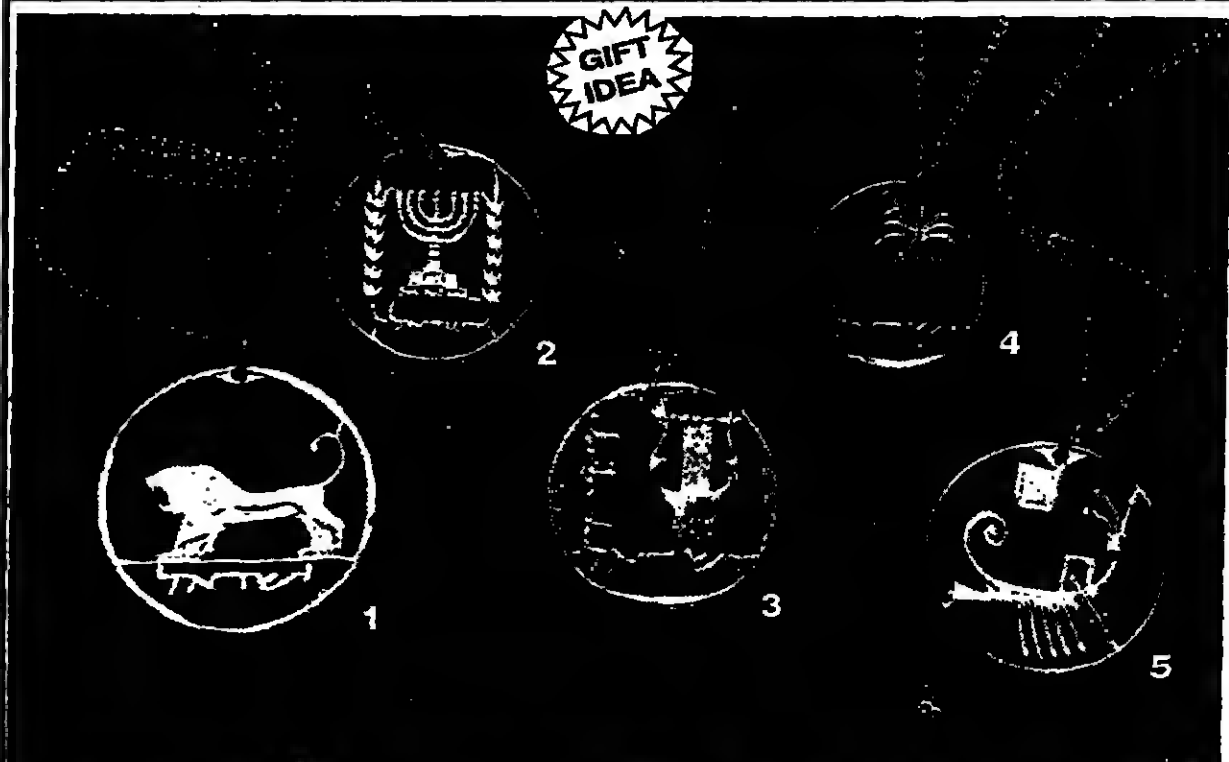
Also, watch Anson Chan, the widely respected Chief Secretary of Hong Kong in charge of its civil service. Mrs. Chan speaks exactly like Margaret Thatcher and has her same steely demeanor. She is 56 and told me she plans to work until age 60. If you see her take early retirement it means she believes the civil service here is being infected with Chinese-style corruption.

And read the Chinese-language press. No one expects outright Chinese censorship in Hong Kong, but if you start to detect self-censorship — stories not written, editorials not offered — Hong Kong's reputation as a global media center will perish.

The West should watch these canaries not just because of what they will tell us about Hong Kong, but because of what they will tell us about China. China has signed an international agreement with cast-iron promises to preserve Hong Kong's autonomy and open character. Moreover, China has an enormous economic self-interest to see Hong Kong preserved. Therefore Hong Kong is a test of whether China has the will and the ability to implement what is in its own self-interest. If it does, it means the West can be a little more optimistic about China's ability to live within the rules of the international system. If it doesn't, it means China is intent on living by its own rules.

So Anson Chan, the press and C. H. Tung are the canaries that will tell us about Hong Kong, but Hong Kong is the big canary that will tell us about China.

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Christmas march in Nazareth unites communities

ALLISON OFANANSKY

As part of its week-long Christmas celebrations, Nazareth, home of the Prince of Peace, is hosting a peace march on Christmas Eve. "We want to show all the world how the people of Nazareth are living together," said Father Majid Atallah, general vicar of the Greek Melkite Church and one of the march's organizers. "We would like to show everywhere in Israel and in the Arab countries what we have here."

Nazareth is the largest Arab city in Israel. About half of its 60,000 residents are Christian, half Moslem. Right next door is the new, predominantly Jewish Upper Nazareth. "There will be many Jews watching the march," Atallah said. "In the past, perhaps, they were afraid to come, but now they see that no one will do anything but welcome them."

The march begins at the French Hospital and follows Paul VI Street, ending at the Basilica of the Annunciation, with a concert of Christmas music and a fireworks display. The Basilica is a Roman Catholic church built over the remains of what, according to Christian tradition, was the house of Mary when she received the vision that she would give birth to Jesus.

Twenty-five groups will join the march, including 10 different churches from Roman Catholic to Greek Orthodox, several Moslem groups, and the Friendship Scouts, which is open to Druze and children of mixed Arab/Jewish families, said the program's organizers.

"The children carry signs that say 'Shalom' or 'Forgive,'" said Sister Rosarita of the Salvatorian Sisters. "We want to let people

know that the feast is not only presents, it's about love and hope. We are building bridges, taking big steps toward peace and understanding."

The first annual march was in 1984. "We will have to feast the bar mitzva," joked Antoine Shabben, spokesman of the organizing committee and chairman of the interfaith council in Nazareth. The first years those planning the march "envisioned" only a Christmas celebration for children, and it blossomed on its own into this city-wide demonstration of coexistence.

"If started with the Catholic scouts and one of two schools," said Atallah, "in the beginning we didn't even think it would include all the Christian denominations. We just wanted to do something to make the children happy. Some people opposed us at first. They thought we would provoke people of other religions. But the next year those that opposed us came to join us."

"We did have some difficulties from political elements that didn't want us to have the feast," said Shabben. "There were leftist groups that, in solidarity with the intifada, didn't want this kind of celebration. But we think that Christmas should be neutral from the political situation, and for a few years now, we've had full cooperation."

THE Christmas festival is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and the Municipality of Nazareth. It is part of a Nazareth 2000 project to develop the city economically and bring in more tourists. Through this project the city is advertising itself as a key



Christmas celebrations in Nazareth's Basilica of the Annunciation. Bethlehem's loss in Christmas tourism is Nazareth's gain.

(David Rubinger)

player in the peace process, and a link between Israeli Arabs, Jews, Palestinians in the autonomous regions, and the Arab countries.

With this image of a peaceful city, Nazareth is hoping to attract Christian pilgrims who want to avoid the political tensions of Bethlehem or Jerusalem. "In the past, most people spent the feast in Bethlehem, and came to Nazareth afterwards," said Tareq

Shihada, the municipality's spokesman for the festival. "This is the first year that Bethlehem is not in Israel, and for the first time we got three foreign choirs to come to us on the 24th, not the 26th." Choirs from Taiwan, Greece and Latvia will perform at the end of the march, along with local music groups.

For the past five years, a Jewish orchestra from Upper Nazareth

played Christmas music at the festival, but this year they are not included in the program. "It's too bad, because it was very beautiful, very festive," said Leonid Fiterstein, director of Tav Ilit. Shihada said Tav Ilit was not asked to play, "because we have not had a full program. Next year we hope to have an open stage in the main square so we won't have this problem."

Those trying to make ties between the diverse populations of the Nazareth area don't limit themselves to the Christmas parade. During the month of Ramadan, Atallah's scouts join the Moslems in their celebration. Shabben's interfaith council sponsors lectures and debates with priests, sheikhs and rabbis. "We have to educate our people to love and respect each other," said Simon

Khoury, a fifth-year student at St. Joseph's Seminary who plans to be at the march. "It is our mission as Christian Arab Israelis to be an instrument of peace."

"It's not always easy," said Atallah, "but when you see the Moslem scouts marching with Father Christmas and hear the Jewish orchestra playing Christmas carols, it's proof of the possibility of coexistence."

Annan's proud mom, 88, offers advice to her son

VICTORIA Annan is the proudest mother in Ghana - if not the whole of Africa.

Her third child, Kofi, may be 58 years old and poised to become the seventh secretary-general of the United Nations, the first black African to hold the post, but she is not averse to offering him a word of advice: "I have this message for Kofi. His success is his hard work and I wish him to continue like that," she said, her eyes sparkling. "I am looking forward to going to New York for my son's inauguration."

Kofi's sister, Essie, Quinoo-Annan, older by one year, said of her brother: "He looks mild, speaks softly, but is not weak. He is a formidable debater but he never raises his voice. "He argues with very clear thinking. He shows his conviction without being fanatical," she said at her home in Ghana's capital, Accra, where her mother is staying. "He would not compromise on principles just like his father. Even as a child, he always spoke the truth, he never told a lie."

News that Annan had won the full backing of the Security Council earlier this month led to widespread rejoicing in the West African nation, less than a week

after presidential and parliamentary elections foreign monitors hailed as exemplary.

"This has to be the greatest week in the history of the Republic of Ghana," the influential *Daily Graphic* said in an editorial headlined "Ghana's historic double victory."

Victoria Annan, 88, is short and erect in stature with that special beauty that sometimes comes with old age.

"As a mother I'm very proud," she said after a string of sleepless nights watching her son's progress on satellite television bulletins into the small hours. She recalled how Kofi, a twin and the third of her five children, was a lively and mischievous child at elementary school, "but he always managed to get away with it."

"In secondary school he was very quiet, he didn't date girls. Kofi was very strict because his father was very strict," she said. Annan, who became UN undersecretary-general for peacekeeping in 1993, is married to Swedish-born Nene Lagergren. They have three children.

The Annan family, of merchant stock from the Fante ethnic group, originates from Cape Coast on the Atlantic Ocean but Kofi spent his early childhood in



Kofi Annan speaks at his first press conference at the UN last week after he was appointed secretary-general by acclamation of the 185-member General Assembly.

the town of Bekwai, near Kumasi, inland capital of the pre-colonial Ashanti empire.

His father, Henry, who died in 1995, was district manager of the United Africa Company (now Unilever) and later a regional minister for Ashanti. The family were comfortably off, living in a company bungalow.

Kofi loved to play soccer with his friends, whom he invited home in great numbers, Victoria Annan said.

"He always gathered his friends around him and brought them to the house. So I was

always busy giving them food. Fortunately for him I was a baker and Kofi loved bread," she said.

He helped his mom as an informal debt collector - an experience that could prove useful when tackling unpaid UN membership dues.

"He was all the time anxious to find out from me whether the customers had paid. If not he would be chasing them. He would just take my book and go out and take as much as he could get from them," Victoria Annan said. In return, she paid him a small commission. (Reuters)

Dry cleaning is awash in health concerns

CONCERN over the fact that traditional dry cleaning of clothing releases large amounts of a chemical called perchlorethylene (perc) into air and groundwater has led the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake a study of alternatives to chemical solvents. This matter has become particularly urgent because of new laws controlling the emission of this substance in several states, with California, New York, and Florida leading the way.

Since perc has been found to be a cause of some breast and liver cancers, some 23 states have banned dry cleaning establishments in the vicinity of human residences and/or shops, and have restricted them in industrial zones. But this does not solve the problem of general pollution, nor does it protect persons working in such establishments.

In the EPA study of 1994, and a new study just released, it was found that wet cleaning of delicate fabrics, when done in the proper way, was a satisfactory alternative where shrinking, stretching, and color change were concerned, and that it even had certain advantages. Among them were that clients said they preferred the wet-cleaned garments because they felt softer and smelled better, and in addition, the system is cheaper in

EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

install and to operate than traditional dry-cleaning facilities.

A wet-cleaning facility operating on steam and microwaves costs 41 percent less to set up than a conventional dry-cleaning plant and slightly less to operate.

In the course of time the 34,000 dry cleaners in the US will switch over to wet cleaning, but in the meantime the EPA has concentrated on recommendations for legislators that can serve as guidelines for new regulations.

Among them are that all new dry-cleaning facilities must use a dry-to-dry machine for dry cleaning. Most, at this time, use two machines for the process, one to clean and a second to dry. It is in the transfer of solvent-soaked materials that causes the most exposure to workers and others in the vicinity.

This is one up-grading step that is now required of all large dry-cleaning establishments in the US, but small shops will not be required to change their existing equipment at this time.

Until all this is done, the best recommendations offered are to purchase less clothing that requires dry cleaning, and to wash any items that are washable.

The EPA points out that 35 percent of dry cleaning in the US is

done on clothing that is clearly labeled as hand washable by the manufacturer, but that some people don't want to be bothered with the chore while others mistakenly think that dry cleaning will protect their more expensive garments.

This type of misapprehension is not exclusive to the US, and in the late '60s and early '70s before young Israelis realized that stone-bleached and faded jeans were the "in" thing they were sending their jeans to the dry cleaners so they wouldn't fade.

Actually, many garments that are specifically labeled "dry clean" can be washed if proper care is taken as to water temperature, type of soap and appropriate drying techniques. This is particularly true of woolen items and, indeed, they are usually softer and more pleasant to wear when properly washed.

Unfortunately the US is the only country to devote much attention to the problem of perc emissions and in most of the world dry-cleaning establishments are conveniently located in areas where adjoining shops and apartments above them are daily exposed to heavy doses of this solvent.

Here in Israel there are no particular restrictions on perc emissions and little if any attention has been paid to the hazards of these emissions.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 23, 1996

Panel: Raise cost of foreign workers

DAVID HARRIS

EMPLOYERS of foreign workers would be forced to pay an additional NIS 5,532 annually for each worker or pay a fine if their workers are illegal, raising NIS 100 million for the state.

This is the main recommendation of the Gal-Yam committee on foreign workers, which presented a list of proposals for reducing and abolishing benefits to foreign workers and their employers to Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, yesterday. Yishai heads the ministerial committee established to reduce the number of foreign workers.

The Gal-Yam committee, the second of four interministerial committees established to examine ways of reducing the number of foreign workers, was asked to make recommendations concerning the actual cost of foreign workers, their taxation, social insurance, and their general cost to the economy. Furthermore, the committee looked at possible sanctions against illegal foreign workers. These include fines and creating disincentives for employers.

Some of the proposals are clearly aimed at reducing or abolishing benefits currently available to the workers and their employers, particularly in the areas of income tax, national insurance and other fees.

The committee was chaired by Treasury head of Economic Research and State Revenue Administration Tsipi Gal-Yam.

The committee's unanimously proposed recommendations include:

- NIS 300 application fee for a permit
- a further NIS 3,000 to be paid by the employer when the permit is granted
- abolition of income-tax breaks to foreign workers currently available in their first year in Israel
- NIS 8,400 will be payable by the employer as a guarantee, to ensure all other conditions are met
- These proposals should be implemented beginning July 1997.
- The total annual cost of these and other measures (concerning legally employed workers) to the employer will be NIS 5,532 per worker, some of which will inevitably be loaded onto the worker by the employer.
- Gal-Yam estimates the changes will add NIS 100m. to state revenues. Some of this however, will go towards the supervision of the foreign workforce.

High Court ruling paves way for Ben-Gurion 2000

EVELYN GORDON

THE Airports Authority can go ahead with plans to divert the Ayalon River to make room for a new terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The 6-to-1 ruling overturns an earlier High Court ruling on the project last November, and enables the Airports Authority to finally begin work on a portion of the "Ben-Gurion 2000" airport expansion plan which has been stalled by court battles for about two years now.

The 2000 plan ranks - along with the Cross-Israel Highway and the Tel Aviv mass-transit project - among Israel's most economically urgent, financially lucrative and and environmental-

ly contentious national projects.

The original petition against the plan was filed by the Lod Valley Regional Council, which charged that the proposal to rechannel the river had not been properly studied and could cause flooding. It also charged that the Airports Authority had taken a number of illegal shortcuts in the approval process, such as having then-agriculture minister Ya'acov Tsur approve work on the project while the National Planning and Building Board was still discussing it and over the objections of the Drainage Authority.

In November 1995, the court accepted the petition in a 2-to-1

decision and ordered the Airports Authority to refill the half-million cubic tons of dirt it had already dug up. However, the authority then asked the court for a new hearing before an expanded panel of justices, and the court agreed. As a result, the order to refill the dirt was frozen.

Yesterday, Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Theodor Or, Mishael Cheslin, Yitzhak Zamir, Tova Strasberg-Cohen and Dalia Dorner, with Eliyahu Mazza dissenting, ruled that the approval process had been legal, and the Airports Authority was therefore free to resume work on the project. However, the court will give its reasons for this decision only at a later date.



Iraqi officials distribute new ration cards to Baghdadis yesterday after the government announced that food imports under the UN-sponsored oil-for-food program would enable it to boost monthly food distribution.

UMB's Medina gets NIS 20m. loan for share purchase

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

IN an attempt to encourage its top manager to bring in greater corporate earnings, United Mizrahi Bank (UMB) has decided to provide its chairman with a NIS 20 million, interest-free loan, for the purchase of 1.5% of the bank's shares, a company spokesperson confirmed yesterday.

As a result of growing competition within the banking sector, Bank Mizrahi decided to use the loan to motivate Victor Medina to improve the bank's earnings, said Menachem Dotan, whose Tel Aviv-based public relations

firm represents the bank. "This is the first time that a private bank in Israel is giving such incentives," said Dotan, adding that most banks in America and Europe employ such programs. Medina will not have to pay interest on the loan, which is linked to the consumer price index, provided that he remains the bank's managing director for the next four years. In the event that he resigns or is fired, Medina will have to pay back all the accrued interest.

"If he does his job well, then both sides win," said Dotan.

Tecnomatix signs \$10m. deal with Mazda

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TECNOMATIX Technologies Ltd. recently announced that it has completed its largest deal to date, a \$10 million contract to sell Mazda Motor Corporation its computer-aided production engineering products (CAPE).

According to the agreement, Mazda will purchase over 100 software licenses as well as engineering and maintenance services. Valued at approximately \$7.6m., the software includes a host of programs that allow engineers to design and test cars in a computerized virtual environment. The contract includes a previously announced \$2m. order. Wall Street reacted enthusiastically to the announcement. On Friday Tecnomatix's Nasdaq-traded stock shot up 16% from \$21.50 to close at \$25.

The deal represents car manufacturers' need to manufacture better cars more quickly, said Harel Beit-On, Tecnomatix's CEO.

Gov't budget on Internet

JUDY SIEGEL

THE government's proposed 1997 budget is on the Internet for all to see - and query - starting today.

Internet subscribers may send in queries about specific sections of the budget according to topics, names, numbers, ministries or the relevant budget book. The budget was put on the computer network by the information systems branch in the Finance Ministry Accountant General's Office.

The budget material joins existing Treasury information on the Internet, including that of the securities branch and the international branch. They all can be reached by keying in <http://www.mof.gov.il>. The project was carried out by Sharon Ben-Haim and Boaz Dolev of the Treasury and Zohar Birkman of the Magic computer software company. Data will be updated from time to time. In seconds, Internet users can get answers to queries about party financing and allocations for road development, for example.

Yitzhak Dahan, head of the information systems branch, said the ministry intends its Internet project to provide access for all residents to databases and services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

5% drop in air travelers: There was a 5 percent drop in the number of travelers passing through Ben-Gurion Airport during November, compared with the same month last year. Among the Israeli carriers, El Al and its charter subsidiary Sun Dor, had 6 percent fewer passengers than during November 1995, and Adia charters dropped by 13%.

Airlines showing a marked increase were Air France, with 30% more passengers than during November 1995; Austrian Airlines, with 28% more; and Air Canada, with an increase of 38%. The leading foreign carriers last month were TWA, British Airways, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, and Air France. Haim Shapiro

Italy's 1997 budget approved by parliament: The Italian parliament yesterday approved the center-left government's 1997 austerity budget, drawn up in a last gasp effort to prepare for the launch of the single European currency. The package, which aims to slice 62.5 trillion lire (\$41 billion) from next year's projected deficit, was passed at a rare sitting of the lower house of parliament by 316 votes to two, with two abstentions. Opposition parties pinned some 10,000 amendments to the budget during its three-month battle through Italy's two houses of parliament, and the government only managed to clear it past the Senate last week thanks to a battery of confidence motions. Reader

Jordan's minister of communications resigns: Jordan's Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Jamal Sarayrah has offered his resignation to Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabari, a government official said yesterday. The official gave no reason for the resignation and did not say whether Sarayrah's offer had been accepted. The Jordan Times newspaper quoted Sarayrah as blaming Kabari's "haughty attitude" for his decision. Reader

Poll shows Danish resistance to EMU weakening: A new Danish opinion poll shows a sharp rise in Danish support for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), with 46 percent in favor of dropping Denmark's opt-out compared to 33% two years ago. The Gallup poll, published in the Berlingske Tidende newspaper yesterday, showed 44% of respondents wishing to keep to a 1993 referendum decision not to join the European single currency. A June 1994 Gallup survey showed 59% in favor of retaining the opt-out and 33% wishing to drop it. Reader

Austria may delay CA sale to end government row: Austrian Finance Minister Viktor Klima, at pains to halt a damaging row that could topple the coalition government, said he was prepared to delay the sale of second biggest bank Creditanstalt until next year. "If possible we will decide this month - without endangering the coalition. But if there is a reason not to decide before year-end, then we won't do it," Klima, a Social Democrat, told the current affairs magazine Profil in an interview to be published today. "I am ready to do a lot of things, including reopen the bidding so that people can alter their bids without drawing in new partners," Klima added. Reader

Cuba moves to counter US trade law: Cuba, the target of a US law that seeks to curb foreign investment on the communist-ruled island, unveiled yesterday tough legislation to counter the law and to protect existing and future investors. The draft legislation was approved by three permanent commissions of Cuba's National Assembly, which will ratify the new law when it meets in full session next Tuesday. Article One of the proposed legislation declares "null and void" any claim made under the US Helms-Burton law, which threatens penalties against foreign investors in Cuba judged to be "trafficking" in expropriated, formerly US-owned assets. Reader

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.12.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6197	3.6781	3.18	3.35	3.2700
German mark	2.0849	2.1188	2.04	2.15	2.1011
Pound sterling	5.4080	5.4893	5.31	5.58	5.4517
French franc	0.8171	0.8271	0.80	0.84	0.8220
Japanese yen (100)	2.5380	2.5338	2.78	2.83	2.8609
Dutch florin	1.5573	1.5873	1.52	1.52	1.5719
Swiss franc	2.4276	2.4688	2.39	2.51	2.4482
Swedish krona	0.4735	0.4812	0.48	0.49	0.4774
Norwegian krona	0.5315	0.5388	0.48	0.52	0.5053
Denmark krone	0.5450	0.5538	0.53	0.57	0.5493
Finnish mark	0.6983	0.7108	0.68	0.73	0.7044
Canadian dollar	2.3714	2.4087	2.33	2.45	2.3905
Australian dollar	2.2771	2.3187	2.33	2.48	2.3979
S. African rand	0.6988	0.7020	0.62	0.71	0.6982
Belgian franc (10)	1.0118	1.0282	0.98	1.01	1.0182
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5828	3.0708	2.91	3.06	2.9882
Italian lire (1000)	2.1176	2.1518	2.08	2.19	2.1382
Jordanian dinar	4.8100	4.8200	4.51	4.82	4.6494
Egyptian pound	0.8200	1.0000	0.82	1.00	1.0137
ECU	4.0183	4.0832	-	-	4.0437
Irish punt	5.3783	5.4651	5.28	5.55	5.4184
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4747	2.5147	2.43	2.55	2.4847

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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01/97/050/0	Antennas, Wave Guide and accessories	100% for 1 year	4.2.97 8 p.m.	NIS1000	02-5395429-02-5395616
23/96/921/0	ADSL System for V.O.D. R & D on Trial Marketing	300% for 1 year	4.2.97 8 p.m.	NIS7000	02-5395614/5

The following general conditions apply:

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- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.
- Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

England-Zimbabwe Test ends in historic draw

BULAWAYO (Reuter) - Zimbabwe's inaugural Test against England ended with a history-making result with the scores level and the match drawn - and some ill-feeling between the two sides.

Chasing 205 to win in 37 overs, England's sixth-wicket pair of Nick Knight and Darga Gough reduced the target to three runs to win off the last ball.

Knight lashed paceman Heath Streak square on the off-side, but Gough was run out going for the winning run and England finished on 204 for six.

There have been two ties in Test cricket history, where all 10 wickets fell in the fourth innings, but this was the first draw with the scores level.

England coach David Lloyd said his team had dominated the game and he was disgusted at Zimbabwe's negative tactics in the final session, bowling wide of the stumps and posting most of the fielders on the boundary.

"We murdered them and they know it," said Lloyd.

An indignant Alistair Campbell, Pakistan's captain, responded: "I think what he said was adrenalin driven. If he wants to believe they murdered us then fine, but as far as I was concerned it was a good game of cricket."

"Sure we used negative tactics in the final session, but you don't just throw a Test match away."

England looked to be cruising to victory when it needed 59 runs off

the last 10 overs with nine wickets in hand. But the fall of Alec Stewart in the 30th over changed everything.

Stewart had played brilliantly in adding 137 with Knight for the second wicket, but when he had scored 73 from 74 balls with four fours and two sixes he top edged a sweep against leg-spinner Paul Strang and was caught by Campbell.

In the same over Nasser Hussain was caught at point for a duck and England was stopped in its tracks. With the total on 178 John Crawley held out to deep point for seven and the out of form Graham Thorpe was caught for two four runs later.

Zimbabwe deliberately bowled wide of the stumps as a defensive measure, but Gough gave Knight the help he needed and the pair entered the last over needing 13.

Knight smashed Streak for a huge six off the third ball and only five were needed, but they proved beyond England.

Earlier Zimbabwe seemed to have batted England out of the game when it was midway through the second session with two wickets in hand.

But Guy Whittall, who had added 67 for the seventh wicket with Andy Walker (50), sliced a Phil Tufnell delivery to extra cover on 56 and in the next over last man Henry Olonga was caught behind as Zimbabwe were dismissed for 234.

Tufnell was the pick of the England bowlers, taking four for 61 from 31 overs.

An irate Lloyd said: "We had a dodgy first session on the opening day, but after that we dominated the match. For them to have nine men on the boundary at the end was just not on. It might have been within the laws, but it wasn't in the spirit of the game."

Campbell said: "We scored 376 in our first innings and I don't call that being dominated. They batted well on the third day, but we took six wickets for 100 on the fourth and batted well after a poor start in our second innings."

"I don't want to take anything away from Nick Knight and Alec Stewart because they batted superbly. But we were confident going into this game and we'll be even more so in the second Test in Harare."

The teams now fly to Harare for the second and final Test which starts on Thursday.

Villa ends Wimbledon's unbeaten streak

Peter Shilton celebrates 1,000th game

LONDON (AP) - Tobagan striker Dwight Yorke and Yugoslav colleague Savo Milosevic each scored twice as Aston Villa brought Wimbledon's 19-game unbeaten run shattering to a halt yesterday with a 5-0 triumph at Villa Park.

Villa's fifth win in a row moved it up two places to fourth in the standings, one place below Wimbledon and four places behind leader Liverpool, which faces Newcastle today.

The irony of the scoreline was that a 5-0 Wimbledon victory would have put Joe Kinnear's team level with Liverpool and with an identical goal difference.

Yorke, who went nine games without scoring at the start of the season, took his recent tally to 11 goals in 12 league and cup games since. His first came from a back-pass blunder by Kenny Cunningham and the Tobagan had only the goalkeeper to beat after 38 minutes.

Milosevic, who nearly was transferred to Italy's Perugia a month ago, fired the second four minutes later and Ian Taylor headed the third into an empty net in the 61st after the Yugoslav's shot had been blocked by the "keeper."

Milosevic netted the fourth in the 75th although his shot deflected off defender Dean Blackwell and Yorke swept home a right wing cross to add the fifth four minutes from the end.

Villa hit the back of the Wimbledon net three more times but had those disallowed.

Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton achieved the 333rd shutout of his 30-year career when he played his 1,000th league game and helped Leyton Orient down Brighton 2-0.

The band of the Coldstream Guards announced the 47-year-old "keeper's arrival onto the field at Brisbane Road and 1,000 red and white balloons, the colors of his team, were released before a crowd of almost 8,000 gave him a standing ovation.

Former World Cup referee Jack Taylor handed Shilton a silver trophy to mark his 1,000th appearance and the veteran "keeper" also collected a certificate from the Guinness Book of Records as the first English player to reach that mark.

From then on, he had very little



MILLENNIUM MAN - Leyton Ori... Peter Shilton salutes the crowd as he appears for his 1,000th game.

to do as Orient took control of the Division Three game against last place Brighton and scored twice through Dominic Naylor.

Shilton, who didn't have a touch of the ball for the first 23 minutes, admitted it was one of the easiest games he had played.

"I had no really great saves to make so this was just a solid one," he said. "But the main thing was to keep a clean sheet and get the three points."

The former Leicester, Stoke, Nottingham Forest, Southampton and Derby goalkeeper, who also had a spell as player-manager of Plymouth, has no plans of retiring yet.

"I don't want to overstay my welcome," he said. "But I will just get over today and just keep playing."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS:
Premier League - Villa 5, Wimbledon 0
Division 1 - Swindon 2, Bolton 2
Division 3 - Ley, Orient 2, Brighton 0

PREMIER LEAGUE

GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Liverpool	19	11	4	3	35	17	37
Arsenal	19	10	5	4	30	22	35
Wimbledon	19	10	4	4	30	22	35
Aston Villa	18	10	9	6	27	15	33
Man. Utd.	19	8	7	3	37	26	31
Newcastle	17	9	3	5	27	19	30
Everton	19	7	4	28	23	25	26
Chelsea	18	7	7	4	28	27	28
Sheff. Wed.	18	8	9	4	19	20	26
Tottenham	19	7	4	7	18	25	26
Derby	18	5	7	20	22	22	22
Leeds	18	4	4	15	20	22	22
Leicester	19	6	3	9	17	24	21
Sunderland	19	5	6	9	17	20	20
West Ham	18	4	6	8	16	25	18
Southamp.	19	4	4	10	27	38	18
Coventry	18	3	7	9	14	24	18
Middlesb.	18	3	8	9	17	24	18
Blackburn	17	2	7	8	16	22	13
Notts Forest	2	2	7	8	16	30	13

Rams rally against Saints

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The St. Louis Rams awoke from a sluggish start to beat the New Orleans Saints, although it may not have helped save their coach's job.

Eddie Kennison caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Jamie Mardis with 5:30 to go as the Rams, who had trailed 10-0 at the half and looked dejected in the process, rallied for a 14-13 victory Saturday in a game of NFL downtrodden.

The Rams (6-10) won three of their last four, but the victims were New Orleans (3-13) twice and Atlanta (3-12), so the finish may not mean a whole lot to coach Rick Brooks' future. Brooks likely needed to make a bold statement to save his job, and this wasn't it.

Team president John Shaw has said he'll make a quick decision on the fate of Brooks, who has two years left on a four-year contract and is at least a popular choice. A poll by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was 3-1 in favor of retaining Brooks and a Belleville News-Democrat poll was 5-1 for Brooks, a nice guy who just hasn't been able to win. He was one of the league's darlings after a 5-1 start last year but is 13-19 overall.

Brooks chewed out his offense at the end of the first quarter, in which it totaled 33 yards. But at times he also seemed despondent, electing to run out the clock at halftime after Kevin Carter recovered a fumble at the Rams 30 with 1:15 to go. He finally called a timeout after Harold Green ran for a first down at midfield with 18 seconds to go and the Saints got a sack on the next play.

Rick Venturi likely won't lead the Saints (3-13) in 1997, either. Venturi, who stepped in after the midseason resignation of Jim Mora, beat the New York Giants 17-3 last week but is only 2-17 as an NFL coach.

YESTERDAY'S EARLY RESULTS:
Philadelphia 29, Arizona 19
Jacksonville 19, Atlanta 17
Tampa Bay 24, Chicago 17
Houston 24, Baltimore 21
Cincinnati 31, Indianapolis 24
Buffalo 28, Kansas City 9
Miami 31, New York Jets 28
Green Bay 38, Minnesota 16
Carolina 18, Pittsburgh 14

Zimbabwe first innings, 376

England first innings: 204

Zimbabwe second innings: 234

England second innings: 234

Zimbabwe first innings:
Grant Flower b Dargan Gough 10
Sheff. Wed. b Dargan Gough 10
Alistair Campbell b Robert Croft 21
David Hughes b Robert Croft 37
Andy Walker c John Crawley b Phil Tufnell 54
Andy Walker c Nick Knight b Gough 50
Brian Strang c Muelly b Tufnell 28
Guy Whittall b Croft 19
Paul Strang c Crawley b Croft 19
Heath Streak not out 19
Henry Olonga c Alec Stewart b Chris Silverwood 19
Extras 10
Total 376

England second innings:
Nick Knight not out 10
Alec Stewart c Campbell b Paul Strang 73
Alec Stewart c Campbell b Paul Strang 73
Nasser Hussain c Carlisle b Paul Strang 10
John Crawley c Carlisle b Whittall 10
Graham Thorpe c Campbell b Streak 3
Dargan Gough run out 3
Extras 18
Total 204

England second innings:
Falls: 1-17 2-164 3-156 4-178 5-182 6-204
Bowling:
Streak 7-0 84.1
Olonga 2-0 16
Strang 1-13 63
Croft 1-12 81
Whittall 2-20 73

US advances to second round in World Cup qualifiers

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) - Claudia Reyna's goal in the 48th minute gave the United States a 2-2 tie with Guatemala in a CONCACAF World Cup soccer qualifier Saturday night.

The US and five other teams advance to the second round while Guatemala was eliminated from competition for a spot in the World Cup tournament in France in 1998.

Guatemala tied it 1-1 in the ninth minute on a corner shot by

Manuel Funes and took a 2-1 lead in the 43rd minute on a goal by Juan Carlos Plata.

The first American goal was scored by Preki Radosavljevic in the seventh minute.

In the 9th minute, Guatemala tied it up with a corner shot by Manuel Funes against American defender Brad Friedel. Guatemala's Juan Carlos Plata helped set a Guatemala counter-attack strategy and scored again in the 43rd minute.

GROUP ONE

GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
USA	4	1	1	10	5	13
Costa Rica	4	0	2	9	12	8
Guatemala	2	1	3	6	9	1
Honduras	0	1	6	8	9	1

x=qualified for final round (Two teams in each group advance)

Knicks get revenge on Pistons

NEW YORK - Patrick Ewing scored 30 points, including a clutch jumper with 21 seconds to go, as the New York Knicks avenged their worst loss of the season with a 95-92 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday.

John Starks added 17 points off the bench for the Knicks, who have won nine of their last 10 games. The only loss in that stretch was a 112-78 defeat at Detroit on Wednesday in which Ewing scored six points.

"They kicked our butts convincingly in Detroit," Ewing said. "We wanted to come out and make a statement."

Joe Dumars scored 16 points and Lindsey Hunter 13 for the Pistons.

Bulls 111, 76ers 105

Michael Jordan scored 31 points and the visiting Chicago Bulls survived a scare from lowly Philadelphia to win their sixth straight game.

The Bulls led by only one point with just under three minutes left, but then went on a 7-0 run to send the 76ers to their 10th loss in a row.

Scottie Pippen added 22 for Chicago, while Dennis Rodman had 12 points and 18 rebounds. Philadelphia rookie Allen Iverson led all scorers with 32 points, but managed only two in the fourth quarter.

Nets 101, Celtics 100

Kendall Gill sank a 12-foot jumper with 1.5 seconds remaining to give the New Jersey Nets the victory.

Gill scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as New Jersey snapped a five-game losing streak and kept Boston winless on the road in 10 games this season.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS:
New York 95, Detroit 92
New Jersey 101, Boston 100
Chicago 111, Philadelphia 105
Minnesota 103, L.A. Lakers 88
San Antonio 101, Phoenix 88
Miami 86, Houston 66
Milwaukee 103, Orlando 85
Sacramento 101, Portland 99 (OT)

Robert Pack led New Jersey with 29 points and combined with Gill to score 22 of the Nets' 26 points in the fourth quarter. Shawn Bradley added 17 points, 15 rebounds and 11 blocks for the Nets.

Dino Radja led the Celtics with 24 points and Dana Barros had 22.

Hornets 98, Hawks 93

Dell Curry scored 19 points and the Charlotte Hornets held Atlanta scoreless for eight-and-a-half minutes before holding on to beat the Hawks.

Anthony Mason added 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who had a 25-point lead cut to four before they sealed their sixth victory in eight games.

The Hawks, who had their five-game winning streak snapped, missed 15 consecutive field-goal attempts. But they rallied to cut their deficit to 93-89 in the final minute before Charlotte's Scott Brunell wrapped it up with a steal and a long pass to Glen Rice for a breakaway dunk. (Reuter, AP)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	19	7	.730	0
New York	19	7	.730	0
Washington	12	12	.500	9
Orlando	9	18	.333	9
Philadelphia	7	18	.278	11
Charlotte	6	18	.250	11
Boston	5	19	.217	12

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	19	5	.792	0
Detroit	20	6	.800	0
Cleveland	18	8	.688	6
Atlanta	15	9	.625	7
Charlotte	14	11	.560	8
Minnesota	11	12	.478	10
Toronto	9	15	.375	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	20	4	.833	0
Houston	21	5	.808	0
Dallas	9	15	.375	11
Minnesota	9	17	.346	12
Denver	7	19	.269	14
San Antonio	6	17	.261	14
Vancouver	6	22	.182	18

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	18	9	.670	0
Seattle	19	9	.679	0
Portland	14	19	.519	4
L.A. Clippers	10	17	.370	9
Sacramento	10	17	.370	9
Golden State	9	17	.346	9
Phoenix	8	17	.320	10

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It is going to be one of the grandest violin extravaganzas in world history tonight, as five of the best violinists of all times will gather on the stage of the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (8:30) to help the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra celebrate its 50th anniversary in style.



Violinist Shlomo Mintz performs Bruch's First Violin Concerto.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

"From Shostakovich to Kurosawa" is the title of what promises to be a fascinating tour through Japanese theater and film arts conducted by Dr. Zvika Serper, the only foreigner in the world to have performed all three Japanese theater disciplines.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

How do you take your tea? Lemon, cream, sugar? Most people don't really spend much time thinking about tea, but in England, Hong Kong, South Africa, and other places people take their tea ritual extremely seriously.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** DRAGONHEART - Set in a fairytale 10th century of brave swordsmen, wicked kings, strong peasant girls, and the last of the fire-breathing dragons.

ons, Rob Cohen's movie combines a powerful narrative with sophisticated special effects in a way that should appeal both to children who love reading books, and to all the video-game aficionados in the audience.

*** THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS - Michael Lehmann directed this fresh, female reworking of Cyrano de Bergerac, which stars Janeane Garofalo as a dry wit of a vet with her own radio call-in show, Uma Thurman as her sweet, empty-headed fashion-model neighbor, and Ben Chaplin as the man who gets confused and falls for both of them.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise 7:00 Good Morning, Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Revolutions in the Modern Era 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Without Secrets 9:20 Nature 9:45 For the very young 10:15 Science 10:40 English 11:10 Social Sciences 11:40 Tolerance 12:10 Science 12:30 History 13:00 Oned Lin 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 City Cat and Tommy 14:35 Babar the Elephant 14:55 Gargantua 15:10 Without Secrets

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Body 16:00 Mystery Island 16:25 Dubai - live interactive TV game 16:45 Super Ben 16:55 Zap to Bessel 16:58 A New Evening 17:34 Zappy Books - children's literature 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Sport 19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News 20:45 Popolitics 22:10 Backstage with El Al Mayor 22:45 The Lazarus Man 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

12:00 Make A Wish 13:30 Basic Arabic 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Tic Tac - quiz show 15:00 Sherkey and George 15:30 Trick or Treat 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News Magazine with Raffi Barshan 17:30 Zahu Zeh 18:00 Sarit Hadar 18:00 The Mosaic 20:00 News 20:30 It's Nothing - entertainment with Avri Glad 21:45 Dan Shilon Live 23:20 Yes Minister 00:00 News 00:05 Night Owls Talk 2:00 They Want to See Blood 2:30 On the Edge of the Sheaf

JORDAN TV

14:05 Muppet Show 14:30 Dad's Army 15:00 French programs 16:00 Nature's Inventions 16:30 Hey Dad! 17:00 News 17:02 Wild Power 17:15 Dalton - new drama 18:00 French programs 18:30 News headlines 19:35 Rosamunda 20:00 Disaster Channels 20:30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema 21:10 Lazarus Man 22:00 News in English 22:25 Devices and Desires 22:15 The Knock - police drama

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:30 700 Club 15:00 Larry King 18:00

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS2.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS20.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from B'nai Mitzvah Reception, Shmuel Administration Bldg, Tel. 691-9155-8.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Following the Shoah Genocide in Yizhak Rabin Square, Ten years to the Ministry of Education Prize in Plastic Arts. Portraits by a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. Face to Face: Didactic Exhibitions. New Acquisitions. Two Exhibitions. Shmuel Administration Bldg, Tel. 691-9155-8.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, tel 04-8374253.

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CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:15 Panorama 18:00 Amores 18:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Doctors Talk 20:00 News 20:45 Art Magazine 21:15 High Heels (Spanish, 1991) - an actress and her TV news-caster daughter meet after 15 years' estrangement, and discover that the daughter's husband is the mother's old lover. With Victoria Abril and Maria Parodi. Directed by Pedro Almodovar. (104 mins.) 23:00 Adventures - Man and Nature

ETV 2 (22)

15:30 Wonder Years 16:00 Animals of the Mediterranean 16:30 Scientific Eye 17:00 - Fruits of Earth 17:35 Phenomenal World 18:00 Basic Arabic 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Revolutions in the Modern Era 19:30 Vs a Vs 20:00 A New Evening - with Russian subtitles 20:30 Cybernet 21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation 21:45 Video Clips 22:00 Familia Perspective 22:30 Situation - documentary series 23:30 Jewish Mysticism

FAMILY CHANNEL (2)

6:00 Sisters (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt) 9:45 Young and Restless (pt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt) 11:20 Peta Negra (pt) 12:10 Neighbors (pt) 13:05 Dallas (pt) 13:55 Starting at 13:00 14:10 Riverdale 15:00 Sisters 15:50 Days of Our Lives 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 Young and Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Peta Negra 20:50 The Naked Truth 21:15 Ned and Stacey 21:40 Foster 22:05 Hope and Gloria 22:30 Drew Carey 22:55 New York Daze 23:25 Night Stand With Dick Dietrich 23:45 Law and Order 00:30 Six Stalkings 1:20 North of 60

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Two Brothers Running (1930) - comedy starring Tom Conti about sibling rivalry (pt) 13:00 Rage of Paris (1938) - comedy with Douglas Fairbanks about fast talkers who team up with a Parisian beauty in order to con her husband (77 mins.) 14:15 New in the Cinema 14:30 Switching Partners (1982) - comedy about a woman who swaps his parents (pt) 16:00 1982: Conquest of Paradise (1992) - Gerard Depardieu stars in this epic about Columbus. With Sigourney Weaver and Armand Assante (148 mins.) (pt) 18:35 Enigma (1982) - spy thriller about an East German agent who runs to Berlin. With Martin Sheen and Brigitte Fossey (97 mins.) 20:15 Don't Tell Her It's Me (1989) - comedy about a novelist who tries to teach her shy brother how to court women. With Shelley Long and Steve Guttenberg. (97 mins.) 22:00 The People Next Door (1959) - a single mother moves into a new house and becomes suspicious of her neighbors (89 mins.) 23:35 Valentino Returns (1987) - drama about a teenager who buys a pink Cadillac on credit so he can succeed with girls. With Frederic Forrest and Veronica Caetano (100 mins.) 1:10 Grand Secret (1992) - horror (pt) 2:45 Weekend with Kate - adult comedy (pt)

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons 9:00 Course Mario 9:30

STAR PLUS

6:00 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 6:30 Video Fashion News 7:00 Kate and Alice 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 8:30 Dynasty 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Burke and Gossage 11:30 Jingles 12:00 Home and Away 12:30 Lost in Space 13:30 Black Station 14:00 Kate and Alice 14:30 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 15:00 India Show 15:30 Star News in Hindi 16:00 Small Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Yes, Minister 18:30 Chicago Hope 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 X-Files 22:00 Star Trek 23:00 Quincy Jones 2:00 Home and Away 2:30 The Suburbs

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:30 National League Soccer - Saturday's games 17:15 Spanish Soccer - Vigo vs.

EUROSPORT

9:30 Alpine Skiing - World cup (pt) 11:00 Motorcycle Racing: season review 13:00 Sports events of 1996 13:30 The Olympic Games 14:00 The Olympic Soccer finals 16:00 Alpine Skiing (pt) 16:00 Motor racing 16:30 Soccer World Cup Legends (pt) 20:00 Sports events of 1996 20:30 The Olympic Games 21:00 Speedworld 23:00 Sports events of 1996 23:30 The Olympic Games 00:00 Eurogals 1:00 Golf: season review

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Squash 6:30 Omega Boating Magazine 7:30 Athletics - Triathlon 8:30 Auto Racing: Go Karting, France 8:30 Athletics 10:30 Cricket: Best of the Singer Cup 14:30 Auto Racing: Season review 12:00 Table Tennis: Pro tour of '96 - semifinals 14:00 Watersports World 15:00 Golf: This is the PGA Tour 16:00 Trans World Sport 17:00 Indian League Soccer 18:30 Athletics 18:30 Motorcycle Racing: Best of the Superbike season 20:30 Asian Sports 21:00 NFL 23:30 Cricket: Best of the World Cup 00:30 Squash 1:30 Asian Soccer 2:30 Trans World Sport

DISCOVERY (9)

6:00 Open University: Dynamics of Quality Control, part 2; Dilemmas in the Media - panel discussion with Ilana Dayan 12:00 Arabic: Sand, Sea and Sun, part 3 - Red Sea Fish (pt) 13:00 Beyond 2000 (pt) 13:30 New World: Saving the Planet - solutions for the hill tribes of Thailand (pt) 14:00 Open University (pt) 16:00 Arabic: Sand, Sea and Sun, part 3 (pt) 17:30 New World: Saving the Planet (pt) 18:00 Open University (pt) 20:30 Seven Wonders of the World: Ghosts of Wonder 21:00 Great Palaces - Schonbrunn, Vienna 21:30 Folk in the Road - San Francisco 22:00 One Lump or Two? - a feature on sea traditions around the world 23:00 Seven Wonders of the World (pt) 00:00 Open University (pt)

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Adventures 7:00 Executive Lifestyle 7:30 Travel Express 8:30 Today 10:00 Wall Street Morning Reports 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 Wall Street Reports 17:00 MSNBC - The Site 18:00 National Geographic 19:00 Fashion File 19:30 The Ticket 20:00 Selma Scott Show 21:00 Datsun 22:00 NHL Hockey 22:00 Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:00 The Best of Late Night with Conan O'Brien 1:00 The Best of Later with Greg Kinnear 1:30 NBC News with Tom Brokaw 2:00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno 3:00 MSNBC Overnight - live

STAR PLUS

6:00 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 6:30 Video Fashion News 7:00 Kate and Alice 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 8:30 Dynasty 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Burke and Gossage 11:30 Jingles 12:00 Home and Away 12:30 Lost in Space 13:30 Black Station 14:00 Kate and Alice 14:30 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 15:00 India Show 15:30 Star News in Hindi 16:00 Small Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Yes, Minister 18:30 Chicago Hope 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 X-Files 22:00 Star Trek 23:00 Quincy Jones 2:00 Home and Away 2:30 The Suburbs

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CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:30 National League Soccer - Saturday's games 17:15 Spanish Soccer - Vigo vs.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 6 Just what is needed, padding? (5,3,5) 8 Make provision for a financial statement (6) 9 Scheme to unite knot of sea organisms (8) 10 Well-produced painting? (3) 11 Put off retirement (4,2) 12 The last one in the team (8) 14 Elastic sentences? (7) 15 Indors or out, it is at the end of the flight (7) 20 Calm round cape by the swirling fog (8)

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

ACROSS 1 Breathed heavily (6) 2 Dangle (4) 4 Influence (6) 7 Deftly (9) 9 Breathing organ (4) 10 Profit (4) 11 Spate (5) 13 Lethal (6) 14 Loyal (6) 15 Winner (6) 17 Bring up (6) 19 Mountain-ash (5) 20 Verse (4) 22 Notable act (4) 23 Patient (9) 24 Awakened (6) 25 Impolitely (5)

SOLUTIONS

23 Ten past two (6) 24 Shelter swimmer returning (8) 26 Cautious about tirade given in assurance (8) 26 To tear round or spin (6) 27 It's a seductive proposal (8,6) DOWN 1 Gareth, go inside with the continental person having a grotesque appearance (8) 2 One thus on them relating to chemical elements (8) 3 Garland for little fellow? (7)

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

ACROSS 1 Rhabdion (6) 2 Dangle (4) 3 Profoundly (6) 4 Originator (6) 5 Animals' tooth (4) 6 Ball-game (6) 7 Incomparable (9) 8 Geographical dictionary (8) 11 Platform (5) 12 Thwerton's county (5) 15 Steam (6) 16 Decomposed (6) 17 Agriculturalist (6) 18 Make valid (6) 21 Avoid (4) 22 Ward off (4)

GSS threatens to record meetings with gov't

THE feud between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and security officials continued yesterday with sources close to the General Security Service threatening to make their own records of meetings with senior politicians.

Security sources said they could not tolerate recent threats by people they said were close to Netanyahu to release the minutes of meetings between the prime minister and GSS chief Ami Ayalon on the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September.

The sources said they would keep their own records of such meetings, suggesting they could be used to counter the accusations by government officials who blame them for security debacles.

"There is a lot of anger among security officials," a source close to the GSS said. "The concern is that the next round of accusations will

STEVE RODAN

lead to resignations in the service." Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said nobody threatened to release the minutes of meetings with Ayalon. They added that the threats by GSS sources were an attempt to embarrass the new government.

Doron Tamir, a reserve brigadier who until last year was IDF chief intelligence officer, called for a halt in the feud between the government and the security services. He said the security officials have to make the first move and recognize that they are working for a civilian government.

"They have to lower their profile," he said. "They have to be flexible. They can't continue this way. It's clear that those in the security establishment have to get used to this new government.

There's no possibility to replace the government or these [GSS] people because there aren't many people around with these skills."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai called on the nation to show patience and "nerves of steel." During a tour of Israel Aircraft Industries' Malatya division, Mordechai said Israel faces four key threats. They are the Arab and Iranian effort to obtain weapons of mass destruction; the race to assemble long-range ground-to-ground missiles; the increase in Arab militaries; and the terrorist threat.

"Against all this," Mordechai told IAI employees, "we need recognition by the nation that, first, we have still not reached a stage of repose, and second, we need an army that is strong, large and a deterrent, as well as your unique contribution to security."



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (left) and Esther Geibelman, one of the few survivors from the Bogdanovka death camp in Ukraine, attend a ceremony at Yad Vashem yesterday to mark 55 years since the murder of some 50,000 Jews at the camp. (Yitzhak Elber)

Weizman to meet with gay delegation today

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman, whose remarks Friday about homosexuality caused a public furor, will today meet with a delegation representing homosexuals and lesbians.

"It is clear to [the president] that a large section of the gay population has been hurt," presidential bureau chief Arye Shumer said yesterday, explaining why Weizman had agreed to meet representatives of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights. "But," Shumer added, "thousands of faxes and telephone calls have been received at Beit Hanassi in support of the president's views."

Weizman's comment that too much public attention was devoted to the issue of

homosexuality seemed yesterday to have achieved exactly what he had criticized. Public and private figures hastened to add their voices for or against, and the media devoted long hours to the issue.

Much of the public support for Weizman came from religious circles. Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said he shared Weizman's view, expressed at a question-and-answer session with Reali High School pupils in Haifa on Friday, that homosexuality is "abnormal."

Bakshi-Doron said it was "an abomination."

"My heart filled with gladness on hearing the president's forthright remarks,"

BATSHEVA TSUR

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Ben-Zuri of Shas said. "It is imperative that the youth not be dragged into perversion."

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon rushed to defend the president. Even those who did not agree with Weizman's views should show respect for his position, Tichon said.

On the other hand, Physicians for Human Rights said Weizman's description of the phenomenon of homosexuality was "medically incorrect." In a statement released by the association, its members warned that "homosexuals' lives could be endangered" by the repercussions of these views.

Weizman's niece, MK Yael Dayan — who as head of the Knesset lobby for gay rights brokered today's meeting at Beit Hanassi — said that Israel was "returning to the Dark Ages..." [Weizman] revealed a murky and an ugly viewpoint," she said.

Reali principal Ron Keteri said he was "surprised" the president "allowed himself to be carried away." Weizman had received the pupils' questions in advance, he said, "and I had expected him to answer in a statesmanlike way..." The president was received here with a lot of love but also with a great deal of reservation," he said. "We educate towards the right to be different so long as it is not at the

expense of others."

Homosexuals could suffer as a result of the remarks, said Devora Luz, a member of Tehila, an organization for parents of gays. "The number of gay suicides is three times higher than among other sectors of the population. Our children were born slightly different from others. They suffer a great deal and they have not done anything to hurt others. I could not believe my ears when I heard the president speaking."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that the president "deserves an apology. A small group of tyrants has tried to force its views on the general public."

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RENTAL FOR 480 DAYS: TEL. 052-5121212

RENTAL FOR 495 DAYS: TEL. 052-5121212

RENTAL FOR 510 DAYS: TEL. 052-5121212

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